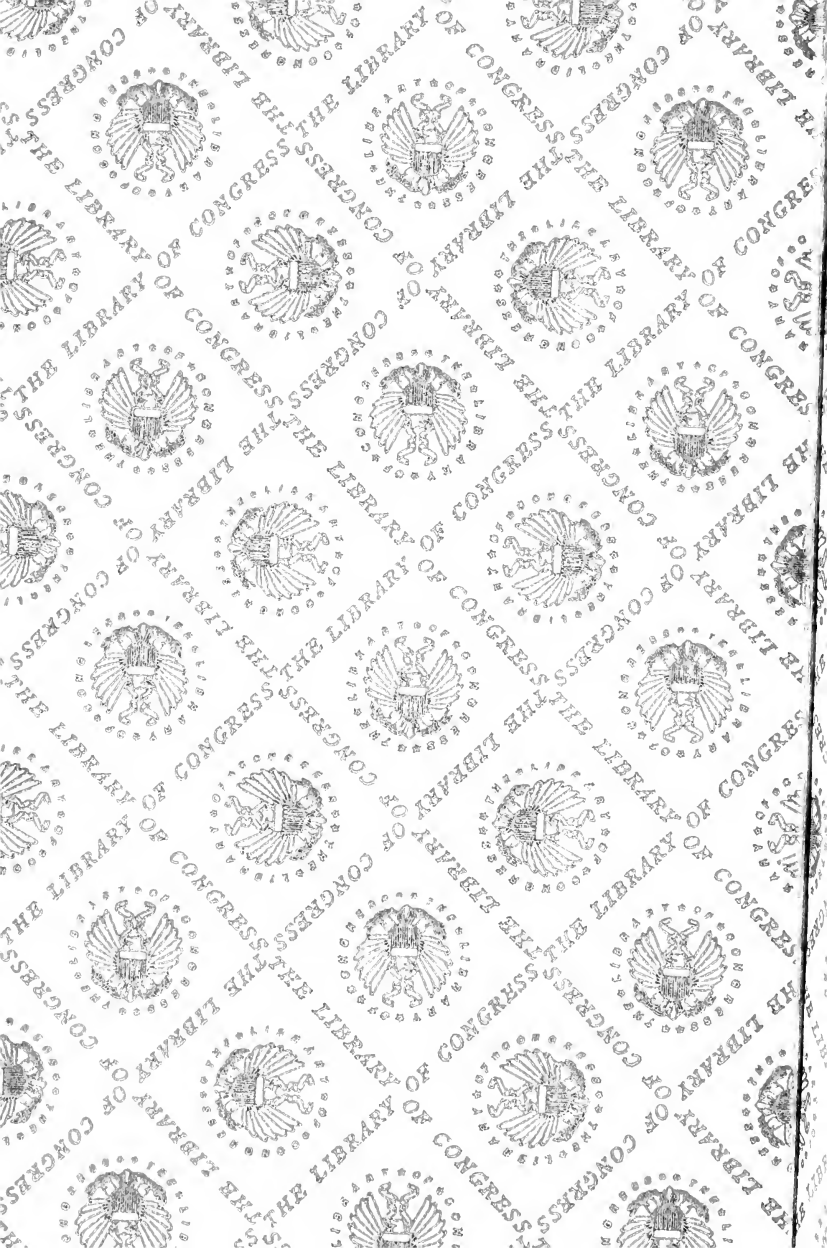
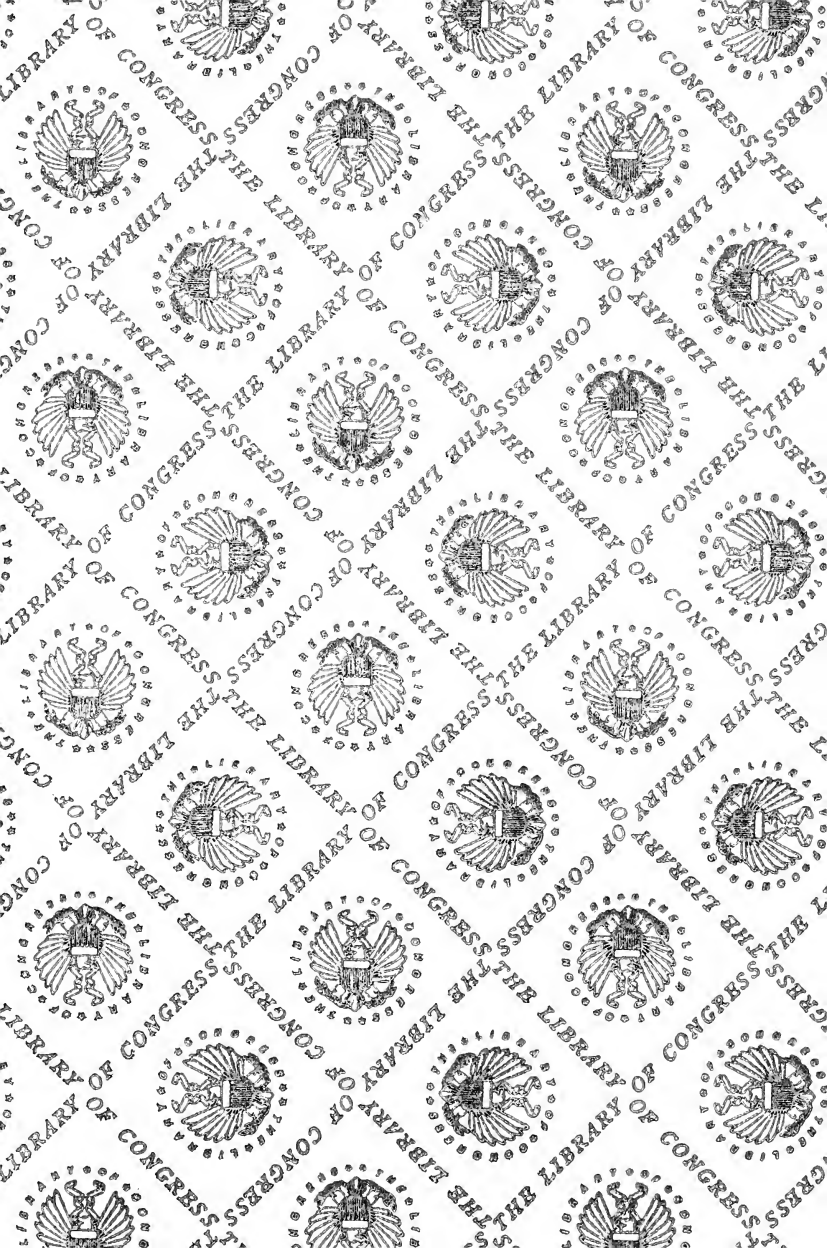


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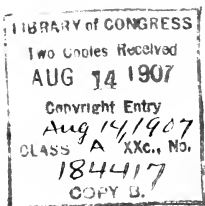
A  
HISTORY  
OF  
ENGLAND.

BY  
A. P. STONE, LL.D.,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

BASED ON AND RETAINING PORTIONS OF  
WORCESTER'S ELEMENTS OF HISTORY,  
BY J. E. WORCESTER, LL.D.

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BOSTON:  
THOMPSON, BROWN, AND COMPANY.  
— 1881.



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## PREFACE.

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\* THIS work is designed as a text-book in English history for those who desire a course of moderate extent. Though comparatively brief, it omits no essential facts in the historical narrative, and it gives sufficient prominence to those features whose importance entitles them to such a consideration. The basis of the work is the chapter on England in the well-known "Elements of History" by Dr. Joseph E. Worcester, for many years a very popular text-book in extensive use in American schools. It has been thoroughly revised and rewritten, and enlarged by important additions and by a fuller treatment of such portions as seemed to demand it. Such corrections and modifications have also been made as had become necessary in view of the light of historical research and criticism since the original work was written.

The aim of the Editor has been to prepare a convenient manual, that shall serve as a guide to both teacher and pupil in an intelligent study of English history, and to present the subject in such a way as to remove from the pupil all inducements to make the study one of memorizing and routine, to assist the teacher in encouraging independent study and investigation, and to enable him to apply frequent tests of the pupils' work and knowledge.

Such suggestions and helps only have been furnished as will indicate the proper object and method of historical study, and make its pursuit one of pleasure and profit, and at the same

time will leave the teacher at liberty to follow whatever special plan may be suggested by his own individual preferences or habits of work.

Some features of the book will, it is believed, be of important assistance in its use. Instead of printed questions, against the use of which there are very grave objections, side-notes have been added, which give a key to the contents of the paragraph in which they are set, but which, nevertheless, require the learner to read carefully the whole text. Several new maps have been prepared to indicate important localities and events, and these maps are rendered specially clear and attractive by the absence of all unnecessary detail. A chronological table of sovereigns, convenient for reference, precedes the text; and at the close of the work will be found tables of leading historical events and of distinguished persons, a list of the British Possessions, the genealogy of English sovereigns, a list of the members of the royal family, and a brief account of the English Government. Outline synopses for review, with tables of contemporaneous history, have been inserted at convenient intervals, both for practical use and as suggestive models for teacher and pupil.

• SPRINGFIELD, July 20, 1879.

## SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS.

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1. Encourage the pupil to read through carefully the entire lesson for the day, in connection with what immediately precedes, so as to obtain a general and a connected idea of the subject, which will enable the mind to grasp and retain the main facts of the lesson, without memorizing the words of the text.

2. Taking the side-notes as guides, use such questions of your own as will compel the learner to give the connected story of the lesson. Questions that will admit of very brief answers should be avoided.

3. Require the recitation to be given in the pupil's own language as far as possible, making allowance for age and other circumstances.

4. Make frequent use of the maps, and require sketch-maps and plans to be drawn upon the blackboard. A very few important dates only should be committed and often reviewed.

5. Show pupils how to extend their reading and researches into other books than their text-books, and to obtain information of the same events as told in the larger works of Macaulay, Hume, Lingard, Knight, Green's English People, &c.; and occasionally assign different topics to different pupils for fuller investigation.

6. Have frequent reviews and re-reviews, varying them so as to make them topical, chronological, and geographical.

7. Lessons should not be too lengthy. Their extent should depend upon the age of the pupils, the importance of the topic, and the minuteness and thoroughness with which it is to be treated.

8. Cultivate in the class a fondness for reading in history and biography.

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# SOVEREIGNS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

SAXON LINE.	Yrs.
Egbert . . . .	827- 838-11
Ethelwolf . . . .	838- 857-20
Ethelbald . . . .	857- 860- 3
Ethelbert . . . .	860- 866- 6
Ethelred I. . . .	866- 871- 5
Alfred . . . .	871- 901-30
Edward the Elder . .	901- 925-24
Athelstan . . . .	925- 941-16
Edmund I.. . . .	941- 948- 7
Edred . . . .	948- 955- 7
Edwy . . . .	955- 959- 4
Edgar . . . .	959- 975-16
Edward the Martyr .	975- 978- 3
Ethelred II. . . .	978-1016-38
Edmund II. . . .	1016-1017- 1

## DANISH LINE.

Canute I. . . .	1017-1036-19
Harold I. . . .	1036-1039- 3
Canute II. . . .	1039-1041- 2
Edward (Saxon) . .	1041-1065-24
Harold II. (Saxon) .	1065-1066- 1

## NORMAN FAMILY.

William I. . . .	1066-1087-21
William II. . . .	1087-1100-13
Henry I. . . .	1100-1135-35
Stephen . . . .	1135-1154-19

## PLANTAGENET FAMILY.

Henry II. . . .	1154-1189-35
Richard I. . . .	1189-1199-10
John . . . .	1199-1216-17
Henry III.. . .	1216-1272-56
Edward I. . . .	1272-1307-35
Edward II. . . .	1307-1327-20

## PLANTAGENET FAMILY. Yrs.

Edward III. . . .	1327-1377-50
Richard II. . . .	1377-1399-22

## BRANCH OF LANCASTER.

Henry IV. . . .	1399-1413-14
Henry V. . . .	1413-1422- 9
Henry VI. . . .	1422-1461-39

## BRANCH OF YORK.

Edward IV. . . .	1461-1483-22
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Mary . . . .	1553-1558- 5
Elizabeth . . . .	1558-1603-45

## STUART FAMILY.

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Charles I. . . .	1625-1649-24
The Commonwealth .	1649-1660-11
Charles II. . . .	1660-1685-25
James II. . . .	1685-1688- 3
William and Mary .	1688-1702-14
Anne . . . .	1702-1714-12

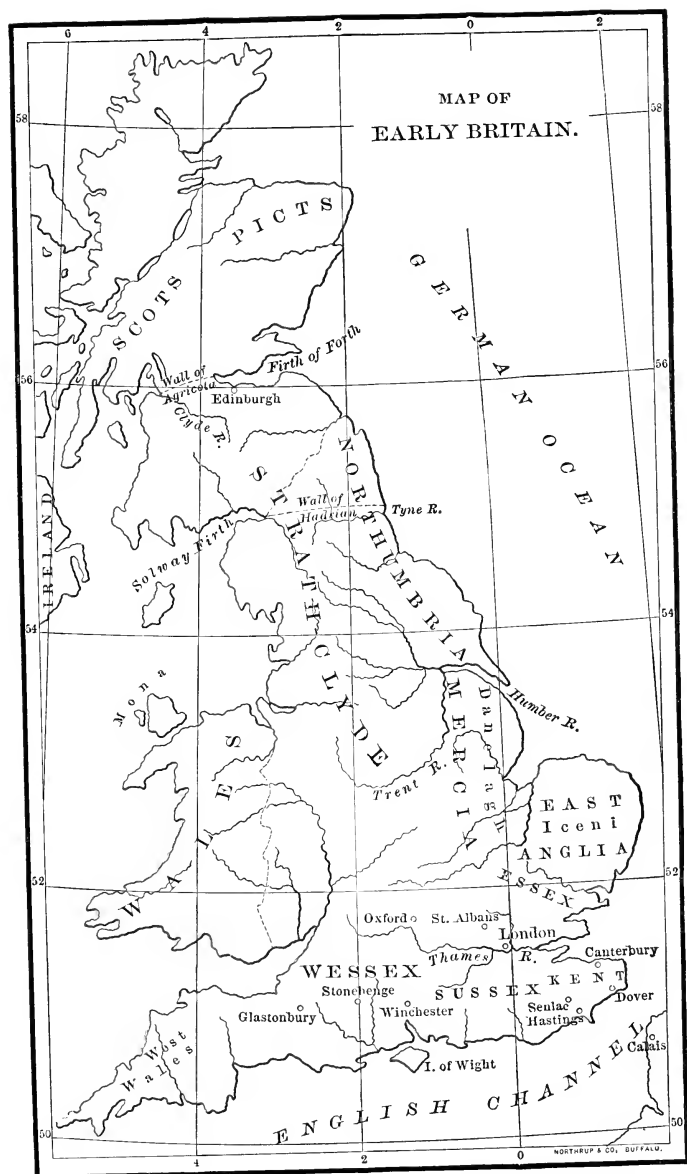
## HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK.

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George II. . . .	1727-1760-33
George III. . . .	1760-1820-60
George IV. . . .	1820-1830-10
William IV. . . .	1830-1837- 7
Victoria . . . .	1837





MAP OF  
EARLY BRITAIN.



# HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

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## *PART I.*

### ENGLAND BEFORE THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

— A.D. 1066.

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#### CHAPTER I.

##### EARLY BRITAIN.

**G**REAT BRITAIN is the geographical name of the island which comprises England, Scotland, and Wales. In a political sense it includes also Ireland and several other islands and countries in various parts of the world, and is called the United Kingdom of Great Britain; also the British Empire.

2. The Island of Britain was known to the ancients several centuries before the Christian era, and was visited by the Phœnician and Carthaginian traders, who obtained from the natives various commodities, such as skins, lead, and tin. Tin was used with copper in forming bronze,—an article in extensive use among the ancient Oriental nations.

3. The early name of the country was Albion, signifying White Isle ; suggested, probably, by the chalk-cliffs on its southern coast. The Greeks and Romans called it Britain (Britannia), or land of tin. Some writers, however, derive this name from *brith*, or *brit*, painted ; because the inhabitants were accustomed to paint or stain their bodies with a blue dye.

4. The first known inhabitants of Britain were of the Celtic race, who at an early period came over from the neighboring continent, — probably from Gaul, now France. The present inhabitants of Wales are supposed to be regular descendants from a branch of Celts called Cimri. Though now called Welsh by their English neighbors and others, they still call themselves Kimry, or Cimri.

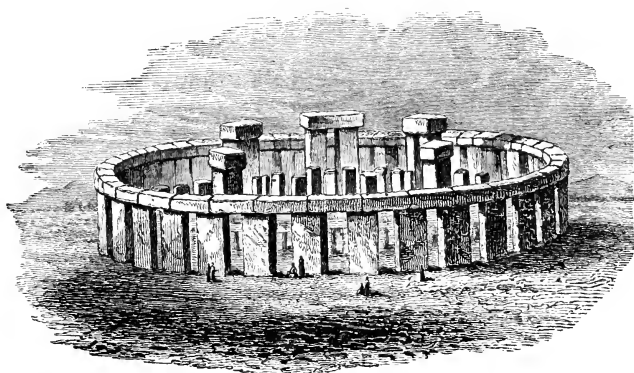
5. The Celts were a lively, quick-witted people, though rude and barbarous, possessing little property except their arms and cattle, and frequently moving from place to place in pursuit of game, pasturage, and plunder. They gave little attention to the cultivation of the soil, but lived mostly upon wild fruits and the flesh of their herds and flocks. Their dwellings — constructed of timber, wicker-work, and thatch — were circular in form, with a conical roof ; and were built in groups, and surrounded by felled trees.

6. The people were divided into many petty tribes, each with its king ; and these tribes were often at war with one another and with their neighbors, in which they displayed much bravery and skill. They used wicker shields, swords and spears of iron and bronze, and war-chariots armed with scythes and hooks, and drawn by well-trained horses.

7. The religion of the early Britons, called Druidism, was a cruel superstition, which entered into all the affairs of life, and exerted a powerful influence in the formation of their character and institutions. The priests, called Druids, had the entire control of all religious rites and affairs,

the administration of justice, the education of youth, and the settlement of difficulties between tribes and nations. They exercised almost absolute power over the people, and punished severely any refusal to submit to their decisions, or to carry out their commands.

8. The Druids worshipped several deities, and some of the heavenly bodies ; taught the doctrine of the transmigration of souls ; and on great occasions offered human sacrifices, confining their victims in wicker cages, and setting them on fire. The doctrines and mysteries of the Doctrines  
and worship. Druids were not committed to writing ; and their dwellings were in secluded forests of oak, which, with the mistletoe growing upon the trees, were held very sacred. At Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plain, in Wiltshire, Southern England, are still to be seen the supposed remains of a Druidic temple, consisting of an altar, surrounded by two circular rows of upright stones, several feet in height.



"STONEHENGE RESTORED."

## CHAPTER II.

### BRITAIN UNDER ROMAN OCCUPATION.

B.C. 55 to A.D. 420,—475 years.

THE inhabitants of the southern part of Britain made greater progress in the arts of civilization than their northern neighbors; and became so famous in war, that they were invited across the channel by the Gauls to assist them in their wars with the Roman general, Julius Cæsar. Cæsar made this a pretext for invading Britain; but his real motive, probably, was to carry his arms into a new country, and to add it to the dominion of the Roman Empire.

2. In the summer season, B.C. 55, Cæsar, with eighty ships and ten thousand men, approached the coast of Britain, near the present site of Dover, where his landing was fiercely resisted by the natives at the water's edge. After a severe conflict the Romans landed, drove back the Britons, and erected fortifications for their own protection and defence. A treaty of peace was made, but was soon after broken by the natives when they saw that a violent storm had destroyed several of the ships in which Cæsar and his army arrived, also others which had followed him from Gaul with men and supplies. After one or two more sharp engagements the Britons were again defeated, and both parties gladly made another treaty of peace and friendship. Cæsar immediately refitted a few of his shattered ships, placed his army on board, and returned to Gaul, having been in Britain only about three weeks, and at no time scarcely out of sight of the shore.

3. In the following year Cæsar returned with a large force to continue his conquests, and to chastise the faithless Britons who had failed to keep their stipulations. The natives opposed him in large numbers under Caswollon', called by the Romans Cassivelaunus, — a powerful chief, who had conquered several neighboring tribes, and who was now at the head of a kind of confederacy of states. But the Britons could not long withstand the Roman mode of warfare. Cæsar pursued them across the Thames, took their capital, St. Alban's, made a treaty of peace with Caswollon, and with many prisoners returned again to Gaul. The results of Cæsar's two expeditions to Britain were simply the occupation of a small part of the island for a short time. He cannot be called its conqueror.

Cæsar's  
second inva-  
sion.

4. For nearly a century Britain was unmolested by the Romans, and during this period some of the native kings were conspicuous in history. One of them, Cunobeline, or Cymbeline, furnished the name and subject of one of Shakspeare's plays. Some of Cymbeline's coins, bearing his own image and inscription, are still in existence.

Britain  
under native  
kings.

5. About A.D. 43 the Emperor Claudius sent an army to Britain under Plautius (Plau'she-us), who made extensive conquests; and Claudius himself visited the island, and received the submission of some of the vanquished natives: but the war of subjugation, with great cruelties on both sides, continued for many years. Caradoc, or Carac'tacus, a powerful Welsh chief, successfully defied the Roman power for a long time, but was finally defeated, and sent as prisoner to Rome.

Claudius.

Caradoc.

6. In the reign of Nero, Suetonius overran the country, and captured Mona (now Anglesey), — an island on the coast of Wales, and the principal seat of the Druids. The Britons made a desperate defence; the women, with dishevelled hair and burning torches, rushing down to the water's edge, and mingling in the affray. But the Romans were

Suetonius;  
Mona.

victorious, and the destruction of the place was complete. The sacred groves were cut down, and the Druids were burned in the fires they had lighted to consume the invaders.

7. During this expedition of Suetonius, Bo-ad-i-cé'a, sister of Caradoc, and queen of the Ice'ni, one of the tribes in the eastern part of the island, took the field, at the head of a large army, to revenge the shameful treatment she and her daughters had received at the hands of the Romans. With great boldness she attacked and captured London, which had then become an important trading-town, and put seventy thousand Romans to death. But her victory was of short duration ; for she was soon after defeated by Suetonius, when a merciless slaughter of eighty thousand Britons — men, women, and children — took place. To avoid capture, Boadicea ended her life with poison.

8. But the Roman power was more fully established in Britain by Agric'ola, who came to the island about A.D. 78. His victorious legions traversed the country even to the foot of the Grampian Hills ; and he sen' a fleet around the north of Scotland, and down the west coast, thus first establishing to the Romans the fact that Britain is an island. Under this ruler the people were encouraged to cultivate the soil, to learn some of the useful arts, and to adopt a more civilized mode of life.

9. But the occupation of the country by the Romans was maintained principally by the presence of their armies, and at times with varied success. Frequent raids took place from the northern part of the island by the Picts, or Caledonians, and by the Scots, who had come over from the north of Ireland. These people were wandering tribes of shepherds and hunters, and they gave the Romans and Britons much trouble. To prevent these inroads, Agricola established a line of forts, and Antoni'nus constructed a wall of earth and stone across the country from the Frith of Forth to the mouth of the Clyde. Some years later

Boadicea.

Britain  
under Agric-  
ola.

Picts and  
Scots.

Roman  
walls.



another wall was erected by Ha'drian from Solway Frith to the Tyne, and subsequently this was strengthened by an additional wall by the Emperor Seve'rus.

**10.** Britain became a flourishing province under Roman influence. Christianity was introduced. Many of the people adopted the dress and manners of their conquerors, Benefits of Roman rule. and erected temples, theatres, and improved dwellings. The soil was extensively cultivated, and grain exported; and the mines were successfully worked. Lighthouses and bridges were built; many towns and cities protected by walls and fortifications; and important military roads were constructed, some of which are now the great thoroughfares of England.

**11.** But, early in the fifth century, vast hordes of barbarians from Northern Europe were threatening Rome and her provinces; and the empire gave many signs of early dissolution. These alarming dangers compelled The Romans recalled. her to call home her forces; and about A.D. 420 the last of her legions left Britain, and returned no more.

## CHAPTER III.

### SAXON CONQUESTS.—THE HEPTARCHY.

420 to 827, — 407 years.

**N**O sooner had the Romans left the island than the Picts and Scots renewed their warfare upon the Britons. The latter had lost somewhat of their early warlike spirit, and were unable to repel their northern invaders. With a merciless foe on one side, and the ocean on the other, they applied to Rome for assistance; but their request was refused.

2. During the last century or two of the Roman occupation, the east coast of Britain had often been visited by Saxon free-booters and pirates from the north-western part of Germany. They had made some settlements, and had caused the Romans considerable annoyance and trouble. In their dire distress the Britons now turned to the Saxons for aid.

3. The history of this period is mingled with much that is probably but little more than wild romance. But the commonly-received account is, that a Saxon army, under the command of two brothers, Hengist and Horsa, — invited, perhaps, by the British prince Vor'tigern, — came over in A.D. 449; and by their assistance the Picts and Scots were driven back to their own territories.

4. The Saxons, finding the country superior to their own, invited over their countrymen from the continent; and for some years there continued to arrive re-enforcements of Saxons, Jutes (Jutlanders), and Angles,

or Engles, from the southern part of Denmark. These people, in the course of time, took possession of Britain, reduced the inhabitants to submission, and compelled them to leave the country, or to retreat to the mountains for safety.

From the Angles is derived the name England; that is, Angle-land.

5. Violent contests between the Saxons and the Britons took place, and the land was the scene of bitter strife for more than a hundred and fifty years. King Arthur, a British champion, was a most determined antagonist King Arthur. of the Saxons, and held them in check for many years, and is said to have defeated them in twelve different engagements. The history of this renowned prince and his Knights of the Round Table has been much celebrated in poetry and romance, but is regarded by many as fiction. Lord Bacon observes, that “in his acts there is enough of truth to make him famous, besides what is fabulous.” Some of the Celtic tribes were unconquered and unconquerable, and fled to the mountains of Wales, where their descendants are the present inhabitants of that country.

6. These Saxon invaders were heathen, and they endeavored to destroy whatever of Christianity was left in the island by the Romans; but, in the latter part of the Saxons and Christianity. sixth century, Pope Gregory sent St. Augustine to Britain, and a very general re-introduction of Christianity took place.

7. As the Saxon tribes came to Britain at different times and under different leaders, they did not form one united kingdom, but several petty states, varying at different The heptarchy. times in number and extent. Seven of these leading states, or kingdoms, are known in history as the Saxon heptarchy; and their names were, 1. Kent, the corner kingdom; 2. Sussex, the South Saxons; 3. Essex, the East Saxons; 4. Wessex, the West Saxons; 5. East Anglia, the land of the Angles in the East; 6. Northumbria, the land north of the Umler, or Humber; 7. Mercia, the border-land, or the land marched over.

8. These kingdoms continued, with many wars and dissensions, for about two hundred years ; when Egbert, king of Wessex (prince of the house of Cerdic, the first king of **Union of the states.** Wessex), succeeded by his prudence and valor in uniting them into one monarchy, in 827, under the name of England. But Egbert and several of his successors still called themselves kings of Wessex.

## CHAPTER IV.

### SAXON KINGS.—DANISH INCURSIONS.

827-1017, — 190 years.

Egbert.	Alfred.	Edwy.
Ethelwolf.	Edward the Elder.	Edgar.
Ethelbald.	Athelstan.	Edward the Martyr.
Ethelbert.	Edmund I.	Ethelred II.
Ethelred I.	Edred.	Edmund II. (Ironside).

SCARCELY had **Egbert** established and regulated his infant monarchy (827) when he found himself assailed by formidable enemies in the Danes, or Northmen, whose depredations form a prominent feature in the early history of England, and who continued for upwards of two centuries to be a scourge to the country. The swift ships of these bold freebooters, bearing the ominous standard of the Black Raven, became the terror of every bay and inlet on the coast. The object of their early expeditions was plunder; but afterwards they began to make settlements, and to wage war with the people for the possession of the soil.

2. Egbert had fierce conflicts with the Danes; but, although once defeated by them, he finally gained a signal victory over them and their allies the Welsh. His death occurred soon after, and he was succeeded by his son Ethelwolf.

3. From 838 to 871 the throne was occupied successively by **Ethelwolf** and his three sons, **Ethelbald**, **Ethelbert**, and **Ethelred**. During these four reigns the country continued to be in a constant state of alarm

from the frequent and oftentimes sudden raids of the Danish adventurers and pirates, whose path was everywhere marked by robbery, burning, and murder.

4. The reign of **Alfred the Great**, the youngest son of Ethelwolf, and the sixth king of England, which began in 871, **Alfred and the Danes.** forms a distinguished era in the early history of the monarchy. In one year he defeated the Danes in eight battles. But by a new irruption they extended their ravages, and forced him to solicit a peace. He was compelled to seek his safety for many months in an obscure part of the country, disguised in the habit of a peasant; and lived in a herdsman's cottage as a servant. In this humble situation the herdsman's wife is said, on one occasion, to have ordered him to take care of some cakes that were baking by the fire; but he forgot his trust, and let them burn, for which she severely reprimanded him.

5. Success having rendered his enemies remiss, and his followers having gained some advantages, he left his retreat; and, **Danes defeated.** in order to discover the state of the hostile army, he entered the Danish camp in the disguise of a harper. He excited so much interest by his musical talents, that he was introduced to Guthrun, the Danish prince, and remained with him some days. Having discovered the unguarded condition of the Danes, he returned to his adherents, and with a large force attacked his enemies by surprise, and defeated them with great slaughter. Alfred promised to give the Danes territory for a home, if they would embrace Christianity. Guthrun and his followers accepted the condition; and Alfred assigned them the eastern part of Mercia, giving it the name of Danelagh, which they occupied for several years.

6. After having restored tranquillity to his distracted kingdom, he employed himself in cultivating the arts of peace, and **Condition of the people.** in raising his subjects from the depths of wretchedness, ignorance, and barbarism. Cities and towns which had been destroyed by the Danes were rebuilt, a regular

militia was organized, and ships of war were constructed to protect the coast. Men of learning, and of skill in the various arts, were invited from other countries, that he might avail himself of their wisdom and counsel.

7. After a few years, the reign of peace was again interrupted by war. Guthrun died; and, soon after, his followers were found aiding their countrymen in new expeditions Danish raids renewed. against England for plunder and pillage. In 893 the famous sea-king Hastings, with a fleet of two hundred and fifty ships, appeared upon the coast, and for more than three years continued to be the terror of all England. Some of the inhabitants joined the invaders; but, after many desperate engagements, Alfred was victorious, and the vanquished searovers were compelled to retire.

8. The few remaining years of Alfred's reign were spent in most judicious measures for the improvement of his Alfred's last days. kingdom and people; and he died in 901, after a reign of thirty years.

9. The testimony of history is unanimous in praise of this the most excellent of England's sovereigns. A successful warrior, — having fought in person more than fifty battles by A warrior and statesman. land and by sea, and having taken the first steps towards a standing army and a navy for England, — he was still greater in the arts of civilization and peace. Some writers ascribe to him the first division of England into counties; but it is more than probable that a similar division existed at a much earlier date. He collected the laws of the Saxons, and formed them into a new code, and established a tribunal for the administration of justice, which may, perhaps, have suggested to a later sovereign (Henry II.) the trial by jury.

10. Navigation and commerce, manufactures and useful inventions, found a liberal patron in Alfred; and he was himself the originator of a device for measuring time, clocks and watches being then unknown. Trade, manufactures, and inventions. For this purpose he used wax candles, with notches at

regular distances, which by their burning measured the intervals of time ; and, to protect them from currents of air, he enclosed them in lanterns of thin horn. He also encouraged the people to improve their dwellings and churches, and to adopt many conveniences of life to which they had been unaccustomed. As a friend of learning, his influence was highly useful. He was the patron, and perhaps the founder, of the University of Oxford. He also instituted schools ; and, for the instruction of his people, he translated a number of works into the Saxon language, and ordered that “all good and useful books” then written in Latin should be changed to the language of the people.

**II.** The character of Alfred shines forth with distinguished lustre in a dark age. He was one of the greatest and best sovereigns that ever sat on a throne,—equally excellent in his private and his public character. He was distinguished for his personal accomplishments both of body and mind, and is reputed the greatest warrior, legislator, and scholar of the age in which he lived.

**12.** Alfred was succeeded in 901 by his son **Edward**, sur-named **the Elder**, from his being the first English monarch of that name. He resembled his father in military genius ; and his reign was a continued but successful struggle against the Northumbrians and Danes, who were powerful in the north of England. By his conquests he added to his dominions several states which before had been merely tributary, and he was the first sovereign who assumed the title of King of all England.

**13.** **Athelstan**, an able and popular sovereign, son of Edward the Elder (925), was successful in his wars with the Danes, Northumbrians, Scots, Irish, and Welsh ; and he enlarged and strengthened his kingdom. He caused the Scriptures to be translated into the Saxon language, and enacted a law which conferred the rank of thane, or gentleman, on every merchant who made three voyages to the Mediterranean.



**14. Edmund**, brother of Athelstan (941), made some conquests, and his reign promised to be a successful one ; but he was suddenly assassinated in his own banqueting-hall by the notorious robber Leolf, previously banished by him, and whom, on this occasion, he had ordered out of his presence. He was succeeded by his brother Edred. Edmund assassinated.

**15. Edred** (948) was not a man of great talents ; but he succeeded in reducing the rebellious Danes in Northumbria to a state of subjection, and garrisoned some of the important towns to secure the future peace of his kingdom. His principal counsellor was Dunstan, abbot of Glastonbury, a man of noble birth, great talents, varied accomplishments, and extraordinary energy, and who gained a wonderful ascendancy over the sovereign and the people. Edred's reign useful. Dunstan.

**16. Edwy**, or **Edwin**, son of Edmund, succeeded Edred (955) at the early age of sixteen. His reign was an unhappy one. Dunstan was making strenuous efforts to reform the secular (married) clergy, in which measures he was opposed by the king. Edwy also married his cousin Elgiva, in opposition to the counsels of Dunstan, and Odo, archbishop of Canterbury ; and it is said, that, on the occasion of a festival following his coronation, he suddenly left the festivities to enjoy the society of his queen and her mother. This was offensive to the Saxon nobles ; and Dunstan and a companion followed the king to his apartment, and forced him back to the banqueting-hall. The king was indignant at this act, and thenceforth became the bitter enemy of Dunstan. Edwy's contest with Dunstan, &c.

**17.** With the consent of Edwy, and by the advice of the queen, the property belonging to the community of Glastonbury was seized. Dunstan was expelled from his monastery, and soon after obliged to leave the kingdom. The Mercians revolted against Edwy, and declared in favor of his younger brother Edgar ; and Dunstan, with Dunstan banished, but returns.

whom they sympathized, was recalled. Odo declared Edwy's marriage unlawful; and Elgiva was arrested and murdered. sent into Ireland, from whence she soon after escaped, and attempted to join Edwy, when she was seized, and cruelly put to death. A series of afflictions followed Edwy, who died soon after (in 958), after a reign of less than four years, and was succeeded by his brother Edgar.

**18. Edgar's reign** (959) was one of peace. He encouraged trade, and kept a powerful fleet, by means of which he was able to hold the Danes in check, and to protect the commerce of his people. He imposed a tax upon the Welsh nobles, payable in wolves' heads, — a circumstance which probably gave rise to the story that he freed his kingdom from wolves. But wolves did not disappear from England until some time after the reign of this king.

**19.** Edgar promoted Dunstan to the archbishopric of Canterbury, and made him his chief counsellor; and having heard of the extraordinary beauty of Elfrida, daughter of the Earl of Devonshire, he sent Athelwold, his favorite, to ascertain the truth of it. Athelwold, overcome by the charms of Elfrida, on his return assured the king that the account of her beauty had been greatly exaggerated; and he obtained the king's permission to marry her himself. But the king, having afterwards discovered the treachery of his favorite, put him to death, and married Elfrida. Edgar's private character and conduct were not good.

**20.** Edgar was succeeded by **Edward** (975), his son by his first marriage, who was assassinated in the fourth year of his reign, and nineteenth of his age, at the instigation of his mother-in-law Elfrida; and from this circumstance he was surnamed **the Martyr**.

**21. Ethelred II.**, the son of Edgar and Elfrida, succeeded (978) to the throne at the age of eleven years. He was a weak monarch, surnamed **the Unready**. He married Emma of Normandy, sister of Duke Richard II.

The Danes committed many depredations upon the kingdom, and Ethelred's cowardly policy was to bribe the invaders to retire. To raise money for this purpose he imposed upon the land a tax called "danegeld," or Dane money; paying to his enemies at one time sixteen thousand <sup>Danegeld.</sup> pounds, and at another twenty-four thousand pounds. When these invasions became frequent, and the tax burdensome, such of the Danes as the recent invaders had left behind were massacred by order of the king, at the Festival of St. Brice (1002), without distinction of age or sex. Among the slain was a sister of Sweyn, king of Denmark, with her husband and children.

22. When the news of this barbarous transaction reached Denmark, it fired every bosom with a desire of vengeance; and a large army of Danes, under their king, Sweyn <sup>Sweyn.</sup> (who was the grandson of Beatrix, the daughter of Edward the Elder), invaded and ravaged the country. Ethelred fled to Normandy, and Sweyn was acknowledged (1013) sole king of England; but he died before his coronation, and Ethelred was again restored. The latter, dying not long afterwards, was succeeded (1016) by his son **Edmund**, surnamed **Ironsides** from his strength and valor; but his abilities and courage were insufficient to save his sinking country.

## CHAPTER V.

### DANISH KINGS.—SAXON KINGS RESTORED.

1017 to 1066,—49 years.

**Canute the Great.**  
**Harold I.**

**Canute II.**  
**Edward the Confessor.**  
**Harold II.**

**O**N the death of Sweyn, his son **Canute**, or **Knut**, was proclaimed (1017) king of England by the Danes.

**Canute and his character.** Having expelled a younger brother who had usurped the throne of Denmark, Canute asserted his claim to the crown of England, invaded the country with a numerous army, and compelled the king to divide his dominions with him. Edmund was soon after murdered by the treachery of Edric, his brother-in-law; and Canute became sole monarch. He was the most powerful sovereign of his time in Europe, and was styled the Great from his talents and successes. In the former part of his reign he was severe, but in the latter part mild and beneficent; and he died lamented.

2. Canute was succeeded (1036) by his son **Harold**, whose principal amusement was the chase, and who obtained the sur-  
**Harold.** name of Harefoot from his swiftness in running.  
**Canute II.** On his death (1039) the throne was filled by his brother **Canute II.**, or **Hardicanute**, the last of the Danish kings. The reigns of these two monarchs were short, and signalized by few important events; and both died without issue.

3. The English now shook off the Danish yoke, and restored

(1041) the Saxon line in **Edward**, brother of Edmund Ironside; though the rightful heir of this line was Edward, surnamed the Outlaw, the son of Edmund Ironside, who was now an exile in Hungary. Edward had been educated in a monastery; and with regard to his life, says Mr. Burke, "there is little that can call his title to sanctity in question, though he can never be reckoned among the great kings." He married the daughter of Godwin, the Earl of Kent, an ambitious and powerful nobleman, who acted a conspicuous part during this reign. Edward was canonized by the Pope, and received the surname of Confessor; and was thought to be favored with the special privilege of curing the scrofula, or king's-evil. This power was long supposed to have descended to his successors; and the superstitious practice of touching for that disorder was continued by the kings of England from this period till the revolution of 1688. During the latter part of his reign, Edward rebuilt Westminster Abbey, the place of crowning, as well as the burial-place, of many of England's monarchs.

Edward's  
reign and  
character.

4. Edward the Confessor, dying without children, is said to have bequeathed the crown to William, Duke of Normandy, a province in the north-west part of France; though Edgar Atheling, the son of Edward the Outlaw, was the rightful heir. Yet **Harold** — the son of the Earl Godwin, and grandson of Esthritha, daughter of Sweyn — was elected and proclaimed king by the nobility and clergy. Harold was a person of noble qualities, and was a great favorite, having distinguished himself by his wise counsels and the subjugation of Wales.

Harold II.

5. William of Normandy resolved to maintain his claim to the crown of England by force of arms; and, having raised an army of sixty thousand men, he invaded the country. Harold, at the head of an army about equal in number, met him, and was defeated and slain in the memorable battle at Senlac, near Hastings (1066). The Nor-

The Norman  
conquest.

mans lost about fifteen thousand men, and the English the greater part of their army. The nation soon submitted to the sceptre of **William**, who was surnamed the Conqueror, and whose descendants have to this day occupied the throne of England.

6. This event, commonly called the Conquest, is an important landmark in English history. It introduced the Norman element into the kingdom and upon the throne, and had an important bearing upon the future of the country, and its relations to other lands.

7. The state of society at this time was not refined. Some progress was made under the Saxons; but much was also lost by the devastations and barbarous practices of the Danes. The common people lived in rude huts, in which an opening in the roof served as a chimney; and the windows were furnished with lattice or cloth, instead of glass. In the houses of the nobles the principal room often served as a family apartment, a banqueting-hall, and sleeping-room, bunks being arranged around the walls for beds. Benches and stools took the place of chairs; and the floors, often of earth, were strewn with rushes or straw. At meals, knives were used for carving, but not for eating; and fingers supplied the place of forks. The Saxons were great eaters, and were fond of exhilarating drinks, which were served in horns ornamented with rims and knobs of silver.

8. The principal amusements were hunting, hawking, juggling, songs accompanied by the harp, chess, and other similar games. Backgammon, which signifies "little battle," originated with the Welsh.

9. The common dress consisted of a tunic of linen or wool, over which the females wore a loose dress with flowing sleeves, and the men a cloak fastened upon the shoulder by a buckle, or clasp. Stockings were worn by both sexes; and chains, belts, and other ornaments, were common. The women spent much time in spinning, and their embroidery was highly valued.

**10.** The king was elective, though generally taken from the family of his predecessor ; and the affairs of state were managed by an assembly of "wise men," or "Witenagemote," composed of the nobles and higher orders. **Government.** The king was chosen by this body. Lower tribunals in the shires or counties attended to the administration of justice and the management of local affairs.

**11.** Before the time of Alfred there were no schools except the monasteries, which were institutions of learning as well as of religion. Beda, or Bede, commonly called the **Schools and Venerable Bede**, did much for the cause of learning **learning.** as a teacher of monks and of youth, and by the preparation in Latin of text-books in nearly all branches then taught. Bede lived during the heptarchy, and died in 735. The monks were generally well versed in Latin, Greek, theology, and astronomy ; also in painting, music, sculpture, and architecture. Dunstan was largely instrumental in introducing the Benedictine monks, who for a long time were the principal teachers of youth. These monks showed great skill with the pen in copying and illuminating books upon vellum, or parchment ; and it is to their labors that we are principally indebted for much of the ancient literature that has been transmitted to modern times.

**12.** London had not yet become the capital, although it was the most important town, with considerable trade. It was surrounded by several villages which are now included within the present metropolis. **London.** The Saxon kings held court wherever it pleased them, Winchester being their favorite place.

# SYNOPSIS FOR REVIEW.

## I. — Early Britain.

Name, ancient, and modern.

People; their character, mode of life, and dwellings. Their religion, government, and wars.

## II. — Roman Occupation.

**Cæsar's** first invasion and its incidents.

**Cæsar's** second invasion. Caswallon. Native kings. Cymbeline.

**Claudius.** Caradoc.

**Suetonius,** Mona, and Boadicea.

**Agricola.** Picts and Scots. Roman walls. Benefits of Roman rule. Romans leave Britain.

## III. — Saxon Conquest.

Raids by Picts and Scots. Saxon freebooters.

**Hengist** and **Horsa.** Conquests. King Arthur. Saxons and Christianity. The Heptarchy.

## IV. — Saxon Kings, &c.

**Egbert.** Danish raids.

**Alfred's** reign and character.

**Edward** the Elder. His contests with the Danes. The first king of all England.

**Athelstan.** War with the Danes and others.

**Edmund.** His tragical death.

**Edred.** Subjugates the Danes and others. Strengthens the kingdom. Dunstan.

**Edwy.** His marriage. Contest with Dunstan and Odo.

**Edgar.** Peaceful reign. Protects commerce by a fleet. Tax upon Welsh nobles. His marriage.

**Edward** the Martyr.

**Ethelred II.** A weak king. Danegeld. Massacre of the Danes. Sweyn.

## V. — Danish Kings.

**Canute** and his reign.

**Harold I.**

**Canute II.** Saxon kings restored.

**Edward** the Confessor. Character and education. King's-evil.

**Harold II.** A great sovereign. Subdues Wales. Duke of Normandy. Battle of Hastings. Its importance. State of society. Dwellings and furniture. Amusements and dress. Government, schools, and learning. Benedictine monks. London.





To Illustrate  
**ENGLISH HISTORY,**  
 Subsequent to the  
 Conquest.



## PART II.

### THE FEUDAL PERIOD.

FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST TO (HENRY VII.) THE  
TUDOR FAMILY.

1066 to 1485, — 419 years.

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#### CHAPTER I.

##### THE NORMAN FAMILY.

1066 to 1154, — 88 years.

William I., the Conqueror.  
William II., Rufus.

Henry I.  
Stephen.

UPON William's accession to the throne (1066) a considerable portion of the kingdom was still in revolt against his authority ; and the greater part of his reign was spent in wars to secure the consolidation of the realm. He disgusted the English by promoting his Norman followers to all offices of importance ; and he caused the Norman language to be adopted in the service of the church, as well as in the courts of justice. He is said to have introduced the feudal system, by which the nobility received large grants of land, on condition of rendering military service to the king ; and the vassals, or common people, were permitted to occupy those lands by rendering similar service to the nobles when called upon. The people were compelled to extinguish their fires at the sound of the curfew-bell (the fire-covering bell), which was rung at eight o'clock in the evening.

2. By his forest laws the king reserved to himself the exclusive privilege of killing game throughout the kingdom, and made it a greater crime to take the life of an animal than that of a man. He formed the New Forest by depopulating a tract of country about thirty miles in circuit,

**Forest laws.**



A NORMAN KNIGHT.

demolishing thirty-six parish churches, together with the houses of the inhabitants. One of the most useful acts of his reign was his compiling "Doomsday Book," which contained a register of all the estates of the kingdom.

3. William possessed great abilities both as a statesman and a warrior. In his person he was tall and well-proportioned; and is said to have been so strong, that scarcely any other person in

that age could bend his bow, or handle his arms. "He had," says Mr. Burke, "vices in his composition, and great ones; but they were the vices of a great mind, — ambition, the malady of every extensive genius; and avarice, the madness of the wise: one chiefly actuated his youth, the other governed his age. The general run of men he looked on with contempt, and treated with cruelty when they opposed him."

4. William II. (1087), surnamed **Rufus** from his red hair, inherited the ambition and talents of his father, and was,

like him, tyrannical, perfidious, and cruel. After a reign of thirteen years, which was disturbed by insurrections, William II. and by quarrels with the ecclesiastics, particularly and his reign. with Anselm the primate, he was accidentally shot by Sir Walter Tyrrel with an arrow aimed at a stag in the New Forest.

5. **Henry I.** (1100), surnamed **Beauclerc**, or the scholar, on account of his learning, **Henry I.** was the younger brother of William Rufus. He took advantage of the absence of his eldest brother, Robert (1100), the rightful heir, who was on a crusade to the Holy Land, and secured the crown for himself. He invaded his brother's Norman dominions; and Robert, on his return, was defeated, taken prisoner, and confined in Wales till his death.



A SAXON PEASANT.

6. Henry married Matilda of Scotland, great-grand-daughter of Edmund Ironside; and in this way the Saxon and Norman families were united. The latter part of his life was rendered disconsolate by the loss of his only son, who was drowned on his passage from Normandy; and from that fatal moment he was never seen to smile. Henry was an able, courageous, and accomplished sovereign, but ambitious, licentious, and ungrateful.

Union of  
Saxon and  
Norman  
families.

7. On the death of Henry (1135) the crown fell by right to his daughter Matilda, or Maud, married first to Henry V., **Accession of** Emperor of Germany, and afterwards to Geoffrey **Stephen.** Plantagenet, Earl of Anjou. By the latter she had several children, of whom the eldest bore the name of Henry. But Stephen, a nephew of the late king, the most popular nobleman in the kingdom, and distinguished for his ambition, valor, generosity, and courtesy, seized upon the crown. Matilda immediately landed in England, and, raising a small army, defeated Stephen, and took possession of the crown: but her haughty and despotic behavior caused a revolt; and Stephen in his turn defeated her, compelled her to quit the kingdom, and again obtained possession of the throne.

8. Henry, the son of Matilda, afterwards invaded England; and, during the heat of the contest, Eustace, the king's eldest son, was removed by a sudden death. **Secures the** Soon after **throne.** this event the jarring interests of the two parties were reconciled, Stephen being allowed to retain the crown during his life, and Henry being acknowledged as his successor; and this transaction was shortly afterwards followed by Stephen's death. During this reign England was harassed and desolated by a succession of civil contentions and wars, which were carried on with unrelenting barbarity by the pillage and destruction of the inhabitants and the conflagration of the towns.

# THE PLANTAGENET FAMILY, INCLUDING THE BRANCHES OF LANCASTER AND YORK.

CHAP. II.-IV.

1154 to 1485, — 331 years.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE PLANTAGENETS.

1154 to 1399, — 245 years.

Henry II.  
Richard I.

John.  
Henry III.

Edward I.  
Edward II.

Edward III.  
Richard II.

**HENRY II.**, the first of the Plantagenets, — being descended by his grandmother from the Saxon kings, and by his mother from the Norman family, — succeeded to the throne (1154), to the great satisfaction of the nation. He is sometimes called Shortmantle, because he brought the use of short cloaks out of Anjou to England. In addition to England, he possessed by inheritance, and by his marriage with Eleanor, heiress of the duchy of Guienne, nearly one-half of France, and during his reign he conquered Ireland; so that he had more extensive dominions than any English monarch who had preceded him, and was the most powerful sovereign of his age. Of Eleanor, his queen, Sir James Mackintosh says, “She was the firebrand of his family, in whose eyes the fair dowry of Aquitaine appeared a cover for every crime.”

2. The different countries of Europe had for a century been agitated with the contest between Church and State, or the ecclesiastical and civil authority. This contest reached its height in England during Henry's reign, of which it forms a prominent feature. Thomas à Becket, the hero and martyr of the ecclesiastical party, a man of extraordinary talents and great ambition, exalted his power to such a degree, that it would admit of a question whether the king or the archbishop was the first man in the kingdom. Becket had for some time held the office of chancellor, and lived in the manner of a prince; but, on assuming the office of Archbishop of Canterbury, he dismissed his splendid train, cast off his magnificent apparel, abandoned sports and revels, and wore the habit of a monk.

3. During the preceding reign the power of the clergy had increased to a most exorbitant height; and Henry resolved to restrain their authority, and reform their abuses; and for this purpose he summoned in 1164 a general council of the nobility and clergy at Clarendon, and submitted to them sixteen propositions, which were agreed to, and are known under the title of the "Constitutions of Clarendon." With other things, it was enacted that clergymen accused of any crime should be tried by temporal judges. Becket, however, made the most resolute and formidable resistance to the changes proposed by Henry; and, after a long series of contests with the haughty primate, the king was on a certain occasion so exasperated by his conduct, that he rashly exclaimed, "What! among all those whom I have obliged is there none who will avenge me of that insolent priest?" The words were scarcely spoken, when four knights of distinguished rank, interpreting the king's complaints as commands, set out with a resolution to avenge the wrongs of their sovereign. They pursued the prelate into the cathedral, and assassinated him before the altar.

The account of this transaction filled Henry with consternation, and caused great excitement in England. Becket died a



martyr to ecclesiastical authority, and the manner of his death effected the triumph of his cause. He was canonized by the Pope as a saint, by the title of St. Thomas of Canterbury ; and numerous miracles were said to be wrought at his tomb, which became a celebrated resort of pilgrims. Henry publicly expressed his sorrow for having used the rash words which had occasioned the death of the primate, and expiated his offence by a humiliating penance at his tomb. Having approached within three miles of Canterbury, he dismounted, walking bare-foot over the flinty road, which in some places he marked with blood, to the consecrated spot ; spent there, in fasting and prayer, a day and night ; and even presented his bare shoulders to be scourged by the monks with a knotted cord. The assassins did penance by a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where they died ; and this inscription, in Latin, was put on their tomb : “ Here lie the wretches who murdered St. Thomas of Canterbury.”

4. The latter part of Henry's life and reign presents an involved and deplorable scene of family discord and contention, — sons against their father, wife against husband, and brother against brother. His three eldest sons, Henry's family troubles.  
Henry, Geoffrey, and Richard, instigated by their mother, and assisted by Louis VII., King of France, engaged in a series of rebellions, with a design to wrest the crown from their father. Queen Eleanor left her husband, and openly associated herself with the rebellion of her sons ; but she was, while making her way to the court of France, taken (dressed in male attire), brought back to Henry, and kept in confinement during the rest of his life. The queen had been irritated against her husband by his neglect and infidelities, and particularly by his attachment to Rosamond Clifford, who, under the title of the “ Fair Rosamond,” is described as a woman of extraordinary beauty, and who made a conspicuous figure in the romances and ballads of the times.

Henry had manifested for his children, in their more early years, an affection bordering on excess ; and when he at last found that his youngest, unworthy, but favorite son, John, like

all the rest, had joined the confederacy against him, he felt that his cup of affliction was full, gave himself up to transports of ungovernable grief, cursed the day of his birth, uttered imprecations against his sons (which he could never be prevailed upon to retract), and, worn out with cares, disappointments, and sorrows, died of a broken heart.

5. The character of Henry<sup>e</sup> may be regarded as a mixture of the qualities, good and bad, naturally arising out of strong intellect, a strong will, and strong passions. He was distinguished both as a warrior and a statesman, and he is ranked among the ablest and most useful sovereigns that have occupied the throne of England. The government was still despotic ; but the power of the barons was restrained during this reign, and the laws better administered than they had been since the conquest. Trial by jury, sometimes erroneously ascribed to the time of Alfred, probably had its origin in this reign ; and Henry was the first who appointed travelling judges to hold court in different parts of the kingdom, thereby saving much time and expense to the accused and witnesses. Henry was also highly successful in checking the lawlessness of the Norman barons. Taxes were first levied on personal estate in England during this reign.

6. Henry was a patron of the arts, particularly of Gothic architecture ; and his reign is remarkable for being the period when many of the sumptuous English edifices were erected, and also for the introduction of various improvements with regard to the conveniences and comforts of life. The arts of luxury, however, were yet in a rude state. Glass windows were regarded as a mark of extraordinary magnificence ; and the houses of the citizens of London were constructed of wood, covered with thatch, and the floors were covered with straw.

The description of the magnificence displayed by Becket while he was chancellor of the kingdom will afford some idea of the rude state of the arts. Nobody, it is said by contem-

porary writers, equalled him in refinement and splendor. "Every day, in winter, his apartments were strewed with clean straw or hay, and in summer with rushes or leaves, that those who came to pay their court to him might not soil their fine clothes by sitting on a dirty floor."

7. **Richard I.**, surnamed *Cœur de Lion* (*kur duh le-ong*), or lion-hearted, who succeeded his father Henry II. (1189), commenced his reign by a cruel persecution of the Jews. The frenzy for the crusades was at this period at its height in Europe. These crusades were military expeditions undertaken by the Christian nations of Europe for the recovery of the Holy Sepulchre and Palestine from the Mussulmans. To a prince of the adventurous spirit and military talents of Richard these enterprises presented irresistible attractions; and, after making preparation, he, in connection with Philip Augustus of France, embarked on an expedition to the Holy Land. They took Acre in concert; and Richard, especially, acquired great renown by his exploits, and defeated the heroic *Sâladin*, the famous Saracen chief, in the battle of *Ascalon*, in which about forty thousand of the Saracens were slain. On his voyage homeward, being shipwrecked, he disguised himself, with an intention of traveling through Germany; but he was discovered, and imprisoned by the emperor. He was ransomed by his subjects for the sum of three hundred thousand pounds, and, after an absence of nine years, returned to his dominions; but he died not long after of a wound which he received at the siege of the castle of *Chalus*, in France, belonging to one of his rebellious vassals.

Richard I.  
and the  
crusades.

8. Richard, who has been styled the Achilles of modern history, was pre-eminent for his valor, which was almost his only merit. Even a century after his death his name was employed by the Saracen cavalier to chide his horse, and by the Saracen mother to terrify her children. His ambition, tyranny, and cruelty were scarcely inferior to his valor. His laurels were steeped in blood, and his victories were purchased with the impoverishment of his people.

His charac-  
ter.

9. Richard was succeeded by his brother **John** (1199), who is supposed to have murdered his nephew Arthur, who was the son of Geoffrey, an elder brother, and the rightful heir. Philip **Accession of** Augustus of France supported the claim of Arthur **John.** to the throne ; and, on account of his being murdered, he stripped the English monarch of his possessions in that country. In consequence of this loss of his territories, John received the surname of Lackland.

10. John excited against himself the displeasure of Pope Innocent III., who proceeded to lay the kingdom under an **Quarrel with** interdict, and afterwards excommunicated the king, **the Pope.** and absolved his subjects from their allegiance. The wretched monarch was intimidated into submission, and on his knees solemnly surrendered his kingdom to the holy see, consenting to hold it as the Pope's vassal. In this manner he made peace with the Church ; but he brought upon himself the universal contempt and hatred of his people.

11. The barons, under the direction of Langton, the primate, formed a confederacy, and demanded of the king a ratification **Magna** of a charter of privileges. John, bursting into a **Charter.** furious passion, refused their demand. They immediately proceeded to open war ; and the king, finding himself deserted, was compelled to yield. He met his barons at Runnymede, and, after a debate of a few days, signed and sealed (1215) the famous deed of Magna Charta, or the Great Charter, which secured important liberties and privileges to every order of men in the kingdom, and which is regarded as the great bulwark of English liberty. John granted at the same time the Charter of the Forest, which abolished the exclusive right of the king to kill game all over the kingdom.

12. The character of John is represented as more odious than that of any other English monarch ; debased by every vice, **John's** with scarcely a single redeeming virtue. His reign, **character.** though most unhappy and disastrous, is, notwithstanding, memorable as the era of the dawn of English freedom.

**13. Henry III.** succeeded (1216) to the throne at the age of only nine years, under the guardianship of the Earl of Pembroke. He was a weak monarch, timid in danger, presumptuous in prosperity, and governed by unworthy favorites. His lot was cast in a turbulent period of English history; and his long reign of fifty-six years consisted of a series of internal conflicts, though it was little disturbed by foreign war. The incapacity of the king was more productive of inconvenience to himself than of misery to his subjects. Under his weak but pacific sway the cause of popular freedom was advanced, and the nation grew more rapidly in wealth and prosperity than it had done under his military and more renowned predecessors.

**Henry III.:  
character  
and reign.**

**14.** Towards the latter part of the reign of Henry, the barons, with Simon de Montfort (Earl of Leicester) at their head, entered into a confederacy to seize the reins of government; and they compelled Henry to delegate the regal power to twenty-four of their number. These divided among themselves all the offices of government, and new-modelled the Parliament by summoning a certain number of knights chosen from each county. This measure proved fatal to the power of the barons; for the knights, indignant at Leicester's usurpation, concerted a plan for restoring the king. A civil war ensued. Leicester, at the head of a formidable force, defeated the royal army at Lewes, and made both the king and his son Edward prisoners. He compelled the feeble king to ratify his authority by a solemn treaty, assumed the character of regent, and called a parliament, summoning two knights from each shire, and deputies from the principal boroughs (1265). This is regarded as the era of the commencement of the House of Commons, being the first time that representatives to Parliament were sent from the boroughs.

**Popular  
freedom  
advanced.**

Prince Edward, having at length regained his liberty, took the field against Leicester, and defeated him with great slaughter in the famous battle of Evesham. In this battle

Leicester himself was killed ; and Henry, by the assistance of his son, was again placed on the throne.

**15. Edward I.**, surnamed Longshanks from the length of his legs, on succeeding to the throne (1272), caused two hundred and eighty Jews in London to be hanged at once on a charge of having corrupted the coin ; and fifteen thousand were robbed of their effects, and banished from the kingdom. He soon after undertook to subdue Wales ; and having defeated and slain the sovereign, Prince Llewellyn, he annexed the country to the crown of England. He created his oldest son Prince of Wales, — a title which has ever since been borne by the oldest sons of the English monarchs.

**16.** The conquest of Wales inflamed the ambition of Edward, and inspired him with the design of extending his dominion to the extremity of the island. On the death of Alexander III., who left no son, Bruce and Baliol were competitors for the throne of Scotland ; and Edward was chosen umpire to decide the contest between the two rivals. He adjudged the crown to Baliol, who engaged to hold it as a vassal of the King of England. Baliol, however, soon afterwards renounced his allegiance : hence arose a war between England and Scotland, which lasted, with little intermission, upwards of seventy years, and drenched both kingdoms with blood. Edward invaded Scotland with a large army, defeated the Scots with great slaughter in the battle of Dunbar, and subdued the kingdom ; and Baliol was carried captive to London.

**17.** While Edward was prosecuting a war in France, the Scots were roused to exertion for the recovery of their independence by their renowned hero, Sir William Wallace ; but, after gaining a series of victories, they were at length defeated by the King of England, with immense loss, in the battle of Falkirk. Wallace became a prisoner of Edward, who put him to death with barbarous cruelty. The Scots found a second

**Edward I.  
and the  
Jews.  
Wales.**

**War with  
Scotland.**

**William  
Wallace and  
Robert  
Bruce.**

champion and deliverer in Robert Bruce, grandson of the competitor of Baliol, who, having expelled the English from the country, was raised to the throne of his ancestors. Edward prepared to make a new invasion with an immense army, but died after having advanced as far as Carlisle.

18. Edward, who was one of the greatest of the English sovereigns, was eminent as a warrior ; and, on account of his wisdom as a legislator, he has been styled the Eng- **Edward's**  
lish Justinian. But he was in disposition a tyrant, **character.**  
and, as often as he dared, trampled on the liberties, or invaded the property, of his subjects. He was, however, admired by his contemporaries ; and his barons respected the arbitrary sway of a monarch as violent and haughty as themselves. His reign was highly advantageous to the kingdom, particularly for the improvements made in the national code and the administration of justice. He repeatedly ratified Magna Charta, and an important clause was added to secure the people from the imposition of any tax without the consent of Parliament. Ever since that time there has been a regular succession of English parliaments.

19. Edward II., surnamed of *Caernarvon* (*Kérnarvon*) from the place of his birth, soon after succeeding to the throne (1307), in compliance with his father's dying in- **Bannock-**  
junction, invaded Scotland with an army of one **burn.**  
hundred thousand men, which was met at Bannockburn by thirty thousand Scots under their king, Robert Bruce (1314). A great battle ensued, in which the English sustained a more disastrous defeat than they had experienced since the battle of Hastings.

20. Edward II., who possessed little of the character of his father, was of a mild disposition, weak, indolent, fond of pleasure, and governed by unworthy favorites, the most **Edward II.'s**  
famous of whom were Gaveston and the two Spen- **character**  
cers. His inglorious reign was characterized by **and reign.**  
the corruption of the court, and by contests and war between

the king and the barons ; and his life was rendered unhappy by a series of mortifications and misfortunes. Isabella, his infamous queen, fixed her affections, which had long been estranged from her husband, upon Mortimer, a powerful young baron ; and she, together with her paramour, formed a conspiracy against the king, and compelled him to resign the crown to his son. Edward was then thrown into a prison, and afterwards murdered, by order of Mortimer, in a barbarous manner. Before his death, and while he was in prison, Parliament declared the throne vacant, thereby establishing its right to depose a sovereign.

**21. Edward III.** succeeded to the throne (1327) at the age of fourteen years. A council of regency, consisting of twelve persons, was appointed during the minority of the king ; yet Mortimer and Isabella possessed the chief control. A treaty was made with the Scots, virtually acknowledging the independence of their king and parliament. But Edward, on coming of age, could not endure the authority of a man who had caused the murder of his father, or of a mother stained with the foulest crimes. Mortimer was condemned by Parliament, and hanged upon a gibbet ; and Isabella was imprisoned for life at Castle Rising, and continued for twenty-eight years a miserable monument of blasted ambition.

**22.** The king, soon after he was established on the throne, made war with the Scots, and defeated them with great slaughter in the battle of Halidon Hill (1333). On the death of Charles IV., he laid claim, in right of his mother, to the crown of France, which he attempted to gain by force of arms, in opposition to Philip of Valois, who was acknowledged by the French nation as the rightful heir. This claim involved the two countries in a long and sanguinary war. After having made his preparations, Edward sailed from England with a powerful armament. His fleet, consisting of two hundred and fifty sail, encountered that of France, amount-



ing to four hundred ships, off the coast of Flanders, and gained one of the greatest naval victories recorded in history. The loss of the English is stated at four thousand men and two ships, that of the French at thirty thousand men and two hundred and thirty ships.

Edward then invaded France at the head of thirty thousand troops, and in the famous battle of Cressy (1346) gained a splendid victory over Philip, the French king, who had an army of upwards of one hundred thousand men, and whose loss exceeded thirty thousand. Cressy;  
the Black  
Prince. This battle is noted, not only for the greatness of the victory, but also for being the first in English history in which cannon were made use of, and likewise for being the scene in which Edward, the king's eldest son (called the Black Prince from the color or covering of his armor), then only sixteen years of age, commenced his brilliant military career. Edward afterwards besieged and took Calais, which remained in the possession of the English till the time of Queen Mary.

23. While the English monarch was in France, the Scots, under their king, David, invaded England, and were defeated at Neville's Cross, near Durham, by Philippa, Philippa. Edward's heroic queen; and their king was led prisoner to London. Of the four generals under the queen, three were prelates.

24. John, who succeeded his father on the throne of France, took the field with an army of sixty thousand men against the Black Prince, who, with only sixteen thousand troops, gained a signal victory at Poitiers (*Poitiers*). Poitiers. 1356. King John was taken prisoner, and led in triumph by the victorious prince to London, where he was kept a fellow-captive with David of Scotland.

25. Edward, in the latter part of his reign, sank into indolence and indulgence, and experienced a reverse of fortune; and, before his death, all his conquests, with the exception of Calais, were wrested from him. Possessions  
lost. His son, the Black Prince, falling into a lingering consumption, was

obliged to resign the command of the army ; and Charles V. of France, an able sovereign, recovered most of the English possessions in that country. The death of the Black Prince, illustrious for his amiable virtues, as well as for his noble and heroic qualities, plunged the nation in grief, and broke the spirits of his father, who survived him only about a year, having occupied the throne fifty years.

26. Edward was the most powerful prince of his time in Europe, and in personal accomplishments is said to have been superior to any of his predecessors. His domestic administration was in many respects excellent, and advantageous to his subjects. The astonishing victories which cast so much military splendor on his reign, and which are accounted the most brilliant in English history, appear to have dazzled the eyes both of his subjects and foreigners, who placed him in the first rank of conquerors. But his wars with France and Scotland were unjust in their object ; and, after having caused great suffering and devastation, he at last found that the crowns of those kingdoms were beyond his reach.

In this reign chivalry was at its zenith in England ; and in all the virtues which adorned the knightly character, in courtesy, munificence, and gallantry, in all the delicate and magnanimous feelings, none were more conspicuous than Edward III., and his son the Black Prince. Their court was, as it were, the sun of that system which embraced the valor and nobility of the Christian world.

27. The title of Duke, now one of the highest orders of nobility, was first applied to the Black Prince ; and his father first introduced the order of the Knights of the Garter. It was also during the reign of Edward that the black death, a terrible pestilence, prevailed in England, by which it is said that half the population of London died, and many villages and towns were depopulated.

28. The language of the people underwent great changes during Edward's reign, and towards its close the English language was used instead of the Norman or French The English language. in the courts and in the schools. Sir John Mandeville, whose account of his travels in the East is one of the oldest books written in English prose, lived during this reign.

29. **Richard II.**, the unworthy son of Edward the Black Prince, succeeded to the throne (1377) at the age of eleven years. He was indolent, prodigal, perfidious, and Richard II. and his regents. a slave to pleasure. The administration of the government during the minority of the king was in his own name, but was conducted by a council chosen by the peers; and this council was greatly influenced, though oftentimes secretly, by the king's three uncles, — the Dukes of Lancaster, York, and Gloucester, — whose contests embroiled all the public measures. Of these the Duke of Lancaster, John of Gaunt, or Ghent (so named from the place of his birth), was the most distinguished, and was possessed of great wealth and power: but he became unpopular, particularly with the courtiers and clergy; and he was noted for being (for political reasons, as is supposed) the protector of Wickliffe the reformer, whose opposition to the Church of Rome commenced in the preceding reign, and gained him many adherents.

30. A poll-tax of three groats (about one shilling), imposed by Parliament upon every male and female above the age of fifteen years, excited universal discontent among Wat Tyler. the lower classes, on account of its injustice in requiring as much of the poor as of the rich. One of the brutal tax-gatherers, having demanded payment for a blacksmith's daughter whom the father asserted to be below the age specified, was proceeding to improper familiarities with her, when the enraged father, named Wat Tyler, dashed out the tax-gatherer's brains with a hammer. The spectators applauded the action. A spirit of sedition spread through the kingdom,

and a hundred thousand insurgents, under Tyler, were soon assembled upon Blackheath ; but the leader was slain, and his followers were finally compelled to submit. This movement is known in history as the Peasants' Revolt, or Wat Tyler's Rebellion.

**31.** While the kingdom was convulsed with domestic contests, it was also engaged in hostilities with France and Scotland. At **War with** Otterburn (1388) was fought, between the English **Scotland and** under Percy (surnamed Hotspur on account of his **France.** fiery temper) and the Scotch under Douglas, a battle, in which Percy was taken prisoner, and Douglas was slain. On this battle is founded the celebrated ballad of Chevy Chase.

**32.** Richard unjustly banished his cousin Henry, the eldest son and heir of John of Gaunt (Duke of Lancaster), and on **The king de-** the death of the duke he seized upon his estate ; **posed.** but, the king having afterwards undertaken an expedition to Ireland in order to quell an insurrection, Henry, the young duke, took advantage of his absence, returned to England, landed at Ravenspur, soon found himself at the head of a numerous army, and compelled Richard, on his return, to resign the crown. The king being very unpopular, the Parliament readily confirmed his deposition : he was then imprisoned, and, as is generally supposed, afterwards murdered.

John Wickliffe the reformer, and one of the first translators of the Bible into English, and Chaucer, the father of English poetry, flourished during this and the preceding reigns.

**33.** The Duke of Lancaster was raised to the throne with the title of Henry IV. ; though Edmund Mortimer was the true **Henry IV.** heir to the crown, being descended from Lionel, the third son of Edward III. ; whereas Henry was the son of John of Gaunt, the fourth son of Edward III. Hence began contests between the houses of York and Lancaster.

**34.** At the close of this period (1399) nearly three cen-

turies and a half had elapsed since the landing of William the Conqueror, and during this time great changes had taken place in the kingdom. While bitter feuds and cruel wars between Parliament, King, and the Church, had often devastated the land, we find at the close of the fourteenth century that the power of the clergy had been curtailed, and that the condition of the lower orders of the people was greatly improved. Many of the most objectionable features of the feudal system had disappeared, and the House of Commons had been organized in Parliament.

35. Colleges and schools for the education of the higher orders had been founded, and the Bible was translated into the language of the people, which at that time began to assume the form called Middle English, having grown up from the languages of the Saxons and the Normans, with a slight intermixture of words from the Celtic, the Latin, and the Greek. In the science of astronomy considerable advancement was made during this period; and magic-lanterns were invented in the reign of Henry III. (1260), and spectacles probably soon after, in the time of Edward I. Gunpowder and cannon were first used by the English in the fourteenth century.

Coal, which had been for some time in use as fuel, became an article of trade from Newcastle to London about 1381.

36. Trade was commonly carried on at fairs, or in small stalls or sheds; and persons who dealt in silk, ribbons, and other goods imported from Milan, received the name of "milliners." Wool was no longer sent abroad to be woven, but was manufactured into cloth at home. Side-saddles for ladies' use are said to have been introduced into England by Anne, queen of Richard II.

37. At times great excesses in eating and drinking prevailed, and laws were enacted limiting the number of courses at meals.

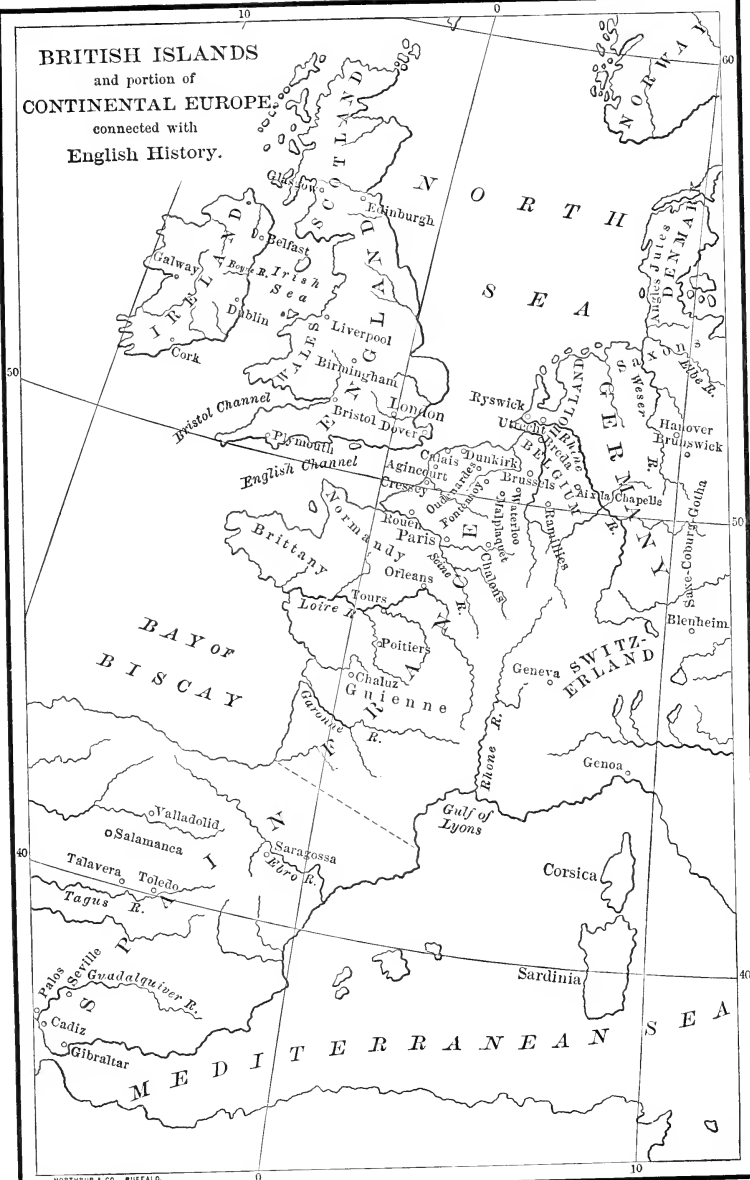
38. In dress, extravagance was quite common. The head-

dressess of fashionable ladies were sometimes three feet in height ; and the shoes of the fop projected, and turned up in front, and were fastened to the knees by chains ; while his head was covered with a richly embroidered hood.

**39.** The state of morals in the fourteenth century was low among all classes. Sunday was so commonly desecrated, that the Archbishop of Canterbury issued a proclamation in 1359, forbidding the opening of fairs and markets on that day ; and he commanded people to attend church on the sabbath, instead of devoting it to business or sinful amusement. Mysteries, or miracle-plays, — long and tedious theatrical representations of Scripture scenes and events, — were a very general amusement of the lower classes of people.



**BRITISH ISLANDS**  
and portion of  
**CONTINENTAL EUROPE.**  
connected with  
English History.





## CHAPTER III.

### THE BRANCH OF LANCASTER.

1399-1461, — 62 years

Henry IV.

Henry V.

Henry VI.

**HENRY IV.**, surnamed Bolingbroke from the place of his birth, who succeeded to the throne by the deposition and murder of the lawful king (1399) and the exclusion of the rightful heir, soon found that the throne of a usurper is but a bed of thorns. A usurper and persecutor. A combination was immediately formed against him. The Scots under Douglas, and the Welsh under Owen Glendower, took part with the rebels; but their united forces were defeated in a most desperate and bloody battle at Shrewsbury, and their leader, Percy (Hotspur), was killed (1403).

While a subject, Henry was supposed to have imbibed the religious principles of his father, John of Gaunt, the patron of Wickliffe and his followers; but, after he was raised to the throne, he changed his faith, endeavored to suppress the opinions which his father had supported, and was the first English monarch who caused his subjects to be put to death on account of their religious opinions.

2. Henry was distinguished for his military talents and for his political sagacity; and, had he succeeded to the throne by a just title, he might have been ranked as one of the greatest of English monarchs. He had been one of the most popular noblemen in the kingdom. Yet, although his reign was in many respects beneficial to the nation, Character and reign.

he became a most unpopular sovereign. His peace of mind was destroyed by jealousy and by remorse ; he was an object of pity even when seated on the throne ; and he felt the truth of the language which Shakspeare puts into his mouth, — “ Un-easy lies the head that wears a crown.”

3. The latter part of his life was imbittered by the extreme profligacy of his son Henry, Prince of Wales. One of the prince's dissolute companions having been indicted before the chief justice, Sir William Gascoigne, for some misdemeanor, he was so exasperated at the issue of the trial, that he struck the judge in open court. The venerable magistrate, mindful of the dignity of his office, ordered the prince to be committed to prison. Henry quietly submitted, and acknowledged his error. When the circumstance was related to the king, he is said to have exclaimed, in a transport of joy, “ Happy is the king who has a magistrate endowed with courage to execute the laws upon such an offender ; still more happy in having a son willing to submit to such chastisement ! ”

4. Henry V., on succeeding to the throne (1413), immediately assembled his former riotous companions, acquainted them with his intended reformation, forbade their appearance in his presence till they should imitate his example, and dismissed them with liberal presents. He commended the chief justice for his impartial conduct, and encouraged him to persevere in a strict execution of the laws. This victory which he gained over himself is incomparably more honorable to him than the martial exploits which have immortalized his name.

5. The Wickliffites, or Lollards, were now numerous in England, and had for their leader the famous Sir John Oldcastle (Lord Cobham), a nobleman of distinguished talents, and high in favor with the king. But Henry, in matters of religion being under the influence of the clergy, and particularly of Archbishop Arundel, gave up to his enemies the virtuous and gallant nobleman, who was condemned for heresy, and put to death.

6. Henry revived the claim to the crown of France, and, taking advantage of disorders in that kingdom, invaded it with an army of about fifteen thousand men, and de- France invaded. feated the French army, amounting to sixty thousand men, in the memorable battle of Agincourt (*Ázhankoor*), 1415. The loss of the French amounted to eleven thousand killed, and fourteen thousand prisoners. Henry afterwards reduced all Normandy; was declared Regent of France, and acknowledged heir to the crown; but death soon put an end to his career of victory.

7. Henry V. was one of the most heroic of the English sovereigns, eminent as a warrior, beloved and adored by military men; and his short reign is one of the most Henry's character. brilliant in English history for military achievement. But his conquests were of little benefit to his people. Henry's widow married Owen Tudor, a Welsh chieftain, from whom were descended the line of English sovereigns called the Tudor family.

8. Henry VI. succeeded to the throne (1422) when an infant only nine months old, and was proclaimed king both of England and France. His education was intrusted Henry's guardians. to Cardinal Beaufort, brother of his grandfather, Henry IV.; and his uncles, the Dukes of Bedford and Gloucester, were appointed protectors or guardians of his dominions, — the former for France, and the latter for England. Charles VII., the Dauphin of France, being supported by the French people, recovered the kingdom by degrees; and the English, being compelled by that extraordinary heroine, Joan of Arc. Joan of Arc, to raise the siege of Orleans, were afterwards stripped of all their conquests in that country, except Calais and Guienne (*Gheén*).

Henry, on coming of age, proved himself to be mild and inoffensive, but totally incapable of managing the Margaret of Anjou. reins of government. He married Margaret of Anjou (*Anzhoo*), — a woman whose distinguished talents, ambition, and heroism well fitted her to supply the defects of

her husband in the wars which distracted his reign ; but her intriguing disposition and cruelty multiplied the number of her enemies. Discontents prevailing among the people, an insurrection broke out, headed by Jack Cade, who assumed the name of John Mortimer, and collected an army of twenty thousand rebels ; but he was defeated and slain. The Duke of Gloucester, a favorite of the nation, the chief pillar of the house of Lancaster, and presumptive heir to the crown (that is, heir in case the king should die without issue), had opposed the marriage of Henry with Margaret. From this circumstance he became odious to the queen, and his death soon after took place in a suspicious manner. This event, added to the imbecility of the king, encouraged the Duke of York to assert his claim to the crown.

9. The houses of York and Lancaster were both descended from Edward III.,—that of York from his third son, and that of Lancaster from his fourth. The rightful title was, **Wars of the Roses.** of course, on the side of the former. Each party was distinguished by a particular badge, or symbol : that of the house of York was a white rose, and that of Lancaster a red one : hence the civil contests were styled the wars of the Roses.

This fatal quarrel, which now (1455) broke out into open hostilities, lasted thirty years, was signalized by twelve sanguinary pitched battles, and marked by the most unrelenting barbarity. During the contest more than one hundred thousand of the bravest men of the nation, including eighty princes of the blood, fell on the field, or were executed on the scaffold. In the battles of St. Alban's and Northampton the Lancastrians were defeated, and the king was taken prisoner ; but Queen Margaret, having collected a large army, gained the battle of Wakefield (1460), in which the Duke of York was defeated and slain. But his son and successor, at the head of a numerous army, entered London amidst the shouts of the citizens, and was proclaimed king (1461) by the title of Edward IV.

## CHAPTER IV.

### THE BRANCH OF YORK.

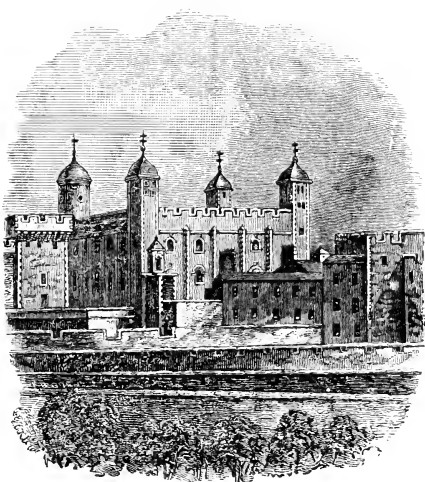
1461 to 1485, — 24 years.

Edward IV.

Edward V.

Richard III.

**T**HE new king, **Edward IV.** (1461), was not permitted to enjoy the crown in peace. The heroic Margaret again collected an army of sixty thousand men, which **Edward IV.** was met by the Yorkists to the number of upwards **and Towton.** of forty thousand, under the command of Edward and the Earl of Warwick. A tremendous battle was fought (1461) at Towton, in which Edward obtained a decisive victory; and upwards of thirty-six thousand Englishmen, slain by one another's hands, were left dead on the field. Henry, having been taken prisoner, was confined in the Tower, and there (after being liberated, and a second time imprisoned) was finally murdered (1471), as was supposed, by the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III.



THE TOWER OF LONDON.

2. The unfortunate queen, accompanied by her son, a boy eight years old, while flying from her enemies, was benighted in Hexam Forest, and fell into the hands of ruffians, who stripped her of her jewels, and treated her with great indignity. After she was liberated from them, being overcome with fatigue and terror, she sank in despair, but was suddenly roused by the approach of a robber with a drawn sword. Seeing no way to escape, she rose, and presented to him her child : “ My friend,” said she, “ here is your king’s son, whom I commit to your protection.” The man, pleased with this unexpected confidence reposed in him, afforded every assistance in his power, and conducted the mother and son through numerous perils to a small seaport, whence they sailed to Flanders.

3. The house of York had been hitherto supported by the important assistance of Nevil, Earl of Warwick, the most powerful baron in England, and the greatest general of his time ; but, Edward having given offence to his benefactor, Warwick was induced to abandon him, and to support the Lancastrians. By his exertions Edward was deposed ; and Henry, after having been a prisoner six years in the Tower, was released, and again proclaimed king. Thus Warwick, having restored Henry (whom he had deposed) and pulled down Edward (whom he had placed on the throne), obtained the title of “ King-Maker.” But, in the bloody battle of Barnet, Edward prevailed, and the brave Warwick was slain. The intrepid Margaret, having returned to England, made a last effort for the crown in the desperate battle of Tewksbury (1471), which proved fatal to her hopes. Her son was slain, and she herself was taken prisoner, but was afterwards ransomed by the King of France ; and in that country she passed the remainder of her life in obscurity and neglect.

4. Edward, being now secured on the throne, gave himself up to unrestrained indulgence in acts of tyranny, cruelty, and debauchery. His brother, the Duke of Clarence, who had

assisted him in gaining the crown, he caused, with the concurrence of his other brother, the Duke of Gloucester, to be impeached and condemned ; and he is said to have been drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine. Edward was possessed of talents, and was reputed the handsomest and most accomplished man of his time in England. The love of pleasure was his ruling passion. “His character,” says an elegant writer, “is easily summed up : his good qualities were courage and beauty ; his bad qualities, every vice.” It was in this reign that the art of printing was introduced (1471) into England by William Caxton, and the king was a patron of the new art.

Edward  
IV.'s char-  
acter and  
conduct.

5. Edward IV. left two sons, the eldest of whom, being only thirteen years of age, was proclaimed king (1483) by the title of **Edward V.** Richard, Duke of Gloucester, brother to Edward IV., being appointed protector, caused Lord Hastings and other distinguished persons to be executed without trial, seized the crown on the pretence that his nephew (Edward V.) and his brother (the Duke of York) were illegitimate, and procured himself to be proclaimed king (1483) by the title of **Richard III.** After two months the young princes disappeared, and are said to have been smothered in the Tower by order of Richard.

Richard III.,  
the usurper.

6. The multiplied and detestable crimes of Richard III., who waded to the throne through the blood of his nearest relations, found an avenger in the Earl of Richmond, the only surviving heir of the house of Lancaster. The armies of the two rivals met at Bosworth in Leicestershire, in the central part of England (1485), where a desperate battle was fought, which, by reason of Lord Stanley's going over to Richmond, proved fatal to Richard, who was defeated and slain ; and his rival was crowned on the field by the title of **Henry VII.**

Battle of  
Bosworth.

7. Richard, who was a man of talents and courage, could conceal the most bloody projects under the mask of affection

and friendship ; and his insatiable ambition led him to perpetrate the most atrocious crimes. He was somewhat deformed in person, but could be affable in manners when it suited his purpose. His sole ambition was to be king of England ; and to the accomplishment of that end he sacrificed principle and friends, or whatever stood in his way. But some of his acts were beneficial. He rewarded those friends who were faithful to him, and restored to their owners many confiscated estates. Trade and commerce were encouraged by him, and he established a kind of post system by regular couriers for the transmission of information.

**Richard  
III.'s character and  
acts.**

8. The battle of Bosworth terminated the long and bloody conflicts between the two houses of York and Lancaster, which had reduced the kingdom to a state of almost savage barbarity ; laws, arts, and commerce being entirely neglected for the practice of arms. During these wars constitutional liberty received a severe check, and the whole course of civilization was turned backward. But out of much evil some good was derived. The power of the ancient nobility was gone forever ; for, during the long and bloody wars, the greater part of the nobles perished, and feudalism almost disappeared.

But the wars of the Roses were not fought in the interests of the people : they were the melancholy result of most bitter and malignant feuds among rival families of the nobility.

And as these wars were carried on principally by and for the nobility, so their immediate effects fell at first more directly upon that class than upon the common people at large and the industrial classes. But the long continuance of the wars, and the almost exclusive devotion to arms by those who ought to have been leaders in good government and in business, finally involved the whole nation in consequences most disastrous to the welfare of the people and to the progress of freedom.

It is difficult to find in the annals of the past a sadder and more disgusting chapter of history than that which details the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster. The con-



duct of these wars was everywhere savage and brutal, and was destitute of that spirit of chivalry which had before been characteristic of the English people. The most wanton exhibitions of revenge were common on all sides, and often resulted in the execution of personal enemies in the most inhuman and disgraceful manner. Patriotism did not actuate either party, nor characterize their conduct in the wars. Selfishness and revenge seemed to be the leading motives ; and the most unblushing treason went unrebuked, and was often at a premium. The nobler traits of human character seemed to be extinguished or repressed, and the baser passions reigned triumphant. Terrible was the ordeal through which the nation was compelled to pass, and for all its suffering and its shame it has nought to show that redounds to the credit of the parties to the Wars of the Roses.

# SYNOPSIS FOR REVIEW.

## PART II. — FEUDAL PERIOD (pp. 25-50).

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**William II.** His character, reign, and death.

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**Stephen.** Accession and reign. Wars.

### II. — The Plantagenet Family.

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**Richard I.** and the Crusades. His character.

**John.** Quarrel with the Pope. Magna Charta. John's character.

**Henry III.** His reign and character. Popular freedom. Leicester.

**Edward I.** The Jews. Wales. War with Scotland. Wallace and Bruce. Edward's character and reign.

**Edward II.** Bannockburn. Character and reign. Isabella and Mortimer.

**Edward III.** Mortimer. War with the Scots and France. Cressy. The Black Prince. Philippa. Poitiers. Possessions lost. Edward's character and reign. Dukes. Pestilence. The English language.

**Richard II.** His regents. Wat Tyler. War with Scotland and France. The king deposed. Scholars. Progress. Education, language, and inventions. Trade, living, dress, and religion.

### III. — Branch of Lancaster.

**Henry IV.** A usurper and persecutor. Character and reign. Prince Henry.

**Henry V.** His reform. Oldcastle. France invaded. Henry's character. Origin of the Tudors.

**Henry VI.** His guardians. Joan of Arc. Margaret of Anjou. War of the Roses.

**IV. — Branch of York.**

**Edward IV.** Towton. The queen a fugitive. Warwick.  
Defeat of Margaret. Edward's character and conduct.

**Edward V.** His fate.

**Richard III.** A usurper. His character and acts. Bosworth. Wars of the Roses, and their influence.

# CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

OF ENGLISH AND LEADING CONTEMPORANEOUS SOVEREIGNS AND  
IMPORTANT EVENTS,

From the Norman Family to the Tudor Family.

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- A.D.  
**1000.** **66. William I.** — **Henry IV.**, Germany, 56. **Pope Gregory VII.** (Hildebrand), 73. **Malcolm III.**, Scotland, 57. Booksellers first known. Surnames first used by nobility. Tower of London built, 80. Papal power very great.
- 87. William II.** — **Pope Urban II.**, **Duncan II.**, Scotland. First Crusade, 96. Jerusalem taken by the Crusaders, 99.
- 1100.** **Henry I.** — **Alexander I.**, **David I.**, Scotland. **Henry IV.**, Germany, died, 1106. Knights Templar instituted. Writing-paper used.
- 35. Stephen.** — **Conrad III.**, Germany, 38. Moscow built, 44. Second Crusade, 47. Magnetic needle known in Italy.
- 54. Henry II.** — **Frederick Barbarossa.**, Germany, 52. **Malcolm IV.**, 53. **William**, 65. Scotland. **Saladin.** Genghis Khan, 76. Bank of Venice founded, 57. Bills of exchange used.

- A.D.  
 1100. 89. **Richard I.** — **Pope Clement III.**, **Henry VI.** (the Cruel), Germany. **Philip Augustus**, France. Papal power supreme. Third Crusade, 88. Richard defeats Saladin at Ascalon, 92. Jews the principal bankers of the world.
99. **John.** — **Pope Innocent III.** **Otho IV.**, Germany. Fourth Crusade. Afghan Empire founded. The Troubadours. Jerusalem taken by the Turks.
1200. 16. **Henry III.** — **Alexander II.** and **III.**, Scotland. **Louis IX.** (St. Louis), France. Coal discovered, 37. Astronomy and geography revived by the Moors.
72. **Edward I.** — **John Baliol**, Scotland, 92. **Philip IV.**, France, 85. Marco Polo travels in the East. Parliaments at Paris, 94. Spectacles invented, 99. Ottoman Empire founded, 99. Mariner's compass invented, 1302.
1300. 7. **Edward II.** — Seat of the Papacy removed to Avignon, 8. William Tell. Dante died, 21. Swiss confederation established, 7. Knights Templar suppressed, 12.
27. **Edward III.** — **Philip VI.**, 28; **Charles V.**, 64. France. **Pope Innocent VI.** Two hundred thousand Moors invade Spain. Fire-arms, 45. Gunpowder invented at Cologne, 40. Turks first enter Rome, 52. Tamerlane, 70. Great Plague in Europe, 47.
77. **Richard II.** — Popes return to Rome. **Charles VI.**, France, 80.
99. **Henry IV.** — **Solyman**, Turkey. The Medici supreme in Florence. Canary Islands discovered, 5.
1400. 13. **Henry V.** — **Sigismund**, Germany. Paris taken by the English, 20. Madeira discovered.

- A.D.  
**1400.** 22. **Henry VI.** — **Charles VII.**, France. **James I. and II.**, Scotland. Joan of Arc. The Azores discovered, 32. Invention of printing, 36. Famine and plague in Paris, 38. Vatican Library founded, 46. Wood-engraving.
61. **Edward IV.** — **Louis XI.**, France. End of Tartar rule in Russia. Watches made at Nuremberg, 77. Copernicus born, 73.
83. **Edward V.** — **Charles VIII.**, France. **Pope Innocent VIII.**
83. **Richard III.** — Luther born. Æsop's Fables printed by Caxton. Cape of Good Hope discovered, 86.

# PART III.

## MODERN ENGLAND.

FROM THE REIGN OF HENRY VII. (1485) TO THE PRESENT  
TIME.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### THE TUDOR FAMILY.

1485 to 1603, — 118 years.

Henry VII.      Henry VIII.      Edward VI.      Mary.      Elizabeth.

THE hereditary right of **Henry VII.** (1485) to the crown was very defective ; but he strengthened his claim by marrying Elizabeth, daughter of Edward IV. ; **Henry VII.**'s and in this way the two houses of York and Lancaster were united. Henry was the son of Margaret (great-grand-daughter of John of Gaunt) and of Edmond Tudor. The sovereigns of the house of Tudor were arbitrary in their principles and character ; but their reign, though disturbed by conflicts both domestic and foreign, was, notwithstanding, less convulsed by war than that of any other family of English kings.

2. The policy of Henry was pacific, and his reign was comparatively tranquil ; yet it was disturbed by several plots and conspiracies, two of which were of a singular character. One of these was the attempt of Lambert Simnel, the son of a baker, to counterfeit the person of the Two pre-tenders.

Earl of Warwick : the other was a similar attempt of Perkin Warbeck to counterfeit the Duke of York, who is said to have been smothered in the Tower by the order of Richard III. Both of the adventurers aspired to the crown, and met with considerable support from the people. Simnel, after being proclaimed King of England and Ireland at Dublin, was taken prisoner, and, instead of being executed, was made a scullion in the king's kitchen, and afterwards promoted to be falconer. Perkin Warbeck, who maintained his cause by force of arms for five years, was supported by many of the nobility, and acknowledged by the kings of France and Scotland ; but, being at last taken prisoner, he was executed as a traitor. And, near the same time, the real Earl of Warwick (the son of the Duke of Clarence, and nephew of Edward IV.), the last male of the Plantagenets, who had been imprisoned from his childhood for no other crime than his birth, was condemned and executed on a charge of treason.

3. Henry VII. was more deficient in the feelings of the heart than in the qualities of the mind, and, though much respected, Henry VII.'s was little beloved. He was wholly devoted to business, prudent and sagacious, little susceptible of the social and generous affections, serious and reserved in his manners, suspicious in his temper, despotic in his government, and avaricious in his disposition, the love of money being his ruling passion. He was capable of descending to the meanest artifices, and of employing the most unprincipled agents, in extorting money from his subjects to fill his own coffers. Empson and Dudley, two lawyers, gained an infamous notoriety as instruments of his rapacity and oppression. By his frugality and arbitrary exactions he accumulated immense wealth ; and is said to have left at his death, in ready money, the sum of one million eight hundred thousand pounds,—an enormous amount of specie for that age, equivalent to ten million pounds, or, according to some, to sixteen million pounds, at present.

4. His reign was prosperous at home, and respected abroad ;



and, though not a popular sovereign, he was, perhaps, next to Alfred, the most useful prince that had hitherto sat on the throne of England. He enacted many wise and salutary laws, promoted industry, encouraged commerce, reduced to subordination a factious and insolent aristocracy, and taught the peaceful arts of civilized life to a warlike and turbulent people. By permitting the nobles to alienate their lands, he weakened their power, raised the respectability of the lower orders, and gave a mortal wound to the feudal system. He expended fourteen thousand pounds in building one ship, named "The Great Harry," which may be considered as the beginning of the English navy, inasmuch as the government, before this period, had no other mode of raising a fleet than by hiring or pressing the vessels of merchants.

5. It was during the reign of Henry VII., and under a commission from him, that the Cabots made their voyages to the New World soon after the first discovery of Columbus. The spirit of maritime adventure received a great impulse, and eventually contributed much to the improvement of trade and commerce.

6. There was also a remarkable revival of learning during this period. This was brought about in large measure by the introduction of printing, which rapidly increased the number of books and lessened their cost, and caused a general dissemination of information.

7. Henry's son Arthur married Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain; and his daughter Margaret became the wife of James (Stuart) IV. of Scotland, from whom descended the house of Stuart.

8. No monarch ever succeeded to the throne of England with brighter prospects than **Henry VIII.** (1509). Uniting in his person the claims of the two houses of York and Lancaster, his title was undisputed. The treasury was well stored, the nation at peace, and the state of the

country prosperous. He was eighteen years of age, of beautiful person, accomplished manners, frank and open in his disposition, possessed of considerable learning and fine talents, and was regarded by the people with affection and high expectations. But these fond expectations were wofully disappointed. As the character of the king developed itself, he was found to be  
**Disappoint-** destitute both of wisdom and virtue, and proved  
**ment.** himself an unprincipled and cruel tyrant, rapacious and prodigal, obstinate and capricious, fickle in his friendships, and merciless in his resentments, and capable of sending a minister or a wife to the scaffold with apparently little feeling or compunction.

His government was but little short of a despotism ; and one of the greatest wonders respecting it is the degrading servility of the people and Parliament in tamely submitting to his tyranny, or becoming the passive instruments of its exercise. He chose for his ministers men of eminent talents ; but he made them feel the effects of his caprice and cruelty. Archbishop Cranmer was almost the only one of great distinction among them who had the good fortune to retain to the last his confidence and regard.

9. By his profusion and expensive pleasures he soon exhausted the treasures which he inherited from his father.

**Foreign** Though his military operations were not numerous,  
**war.** yet in the early part of his reign he made war against Louis XII. of France, invaded the country, and at Guinegate gained the battle of the Spurs, so named from the rapid flight of the French. The Scots sympathized with the  
**Flodden** French ; and, having invaded England, their army  
**Field.** was met by the English, under the Earl of Surrey, at Flodden Field, near the Cheviot Hills. A desperate engagement ensued (1513), in which the Scots were utterly defeated ; their king, James IV., and more than ten thousand knights, being slain. Henry was also, in some degree, involved in the wars of the two great rivals of the age, — Charles V. of Germany, and Francis I. of France.

Before he arrived at the age of thirty he wrote a book on the Seven Sacraments against Luther the reformer, which pleased the Pope so much, that he conferred on him the title of "Defender of the Faith," — a title which his successors have ever since retained.

10. But the most memorable transactions of Henry's reign were his matrimonial alliances, and the consequences which flowed from them. His first wife was Catherine of Aragon, widow of his elder brother Arthur, daughter of Ferdinand of Spain, and aunt of Charles V. He had been contracted to her at a very early age by the influence of his father ; and, after having lived with her about eighteen years, he professed to feel conscientious scruples respecting the lawfulness of the marriage, on account of her having been the wife of his brother ; and, conceiving a passion for the beautiful and accomplished Anne Boleyn, he applied to the Pope for a divorce. Having experienced various delays, and imagining that his favorite minister, the celebrated Cardinal Wolsey, was the chief obstacle in the way of effecting his object, the king resolved on his ruin, and ordered him to be arrested for high treason. But the haughty cardinal soon after fell sick and died, having exclaimed, in the pangs of remorse, "Had I but served God as diligently as I have served the king, he would not have given me over in my gray hairs."

The opinions of various universities favorable to Henry's views having been obtained, and the Pope failing to grant the divorce, the king caused a court to be held under Cranmer, which pronounced his marriage invalid ; and Lady Anne was soon after crowned queen. The Papal jurisdiction in England was immediately abolished (1534), the monasteries suppressed, some alterations made in the doctrines and forms of religion, and the king was declared the supreme head of the English Church.

11. This bold measure greatly aided the reformation in religion ; but such a result was probably no part of the king's

intention. Though Henry ceased to be a Roman Catholic, he was far from being a Protestant. He arrogated infallibility to himself, and caused the law of the *Six Articles* of religion, termed the "Bloody Statute," to be enacted, and condemned to death both Catholics and Protestants who ventured to maintain opinions in opposition to his own. The venerable Bishop Fisher and the celebrated Sir Thomas More, two conscientious Catholics, were beheaded for refusing to acknowledge his supremacy. In less than three years after his new marriage he caused Anne Boleyn to be condemned and beheaded, in order to gratify a new passion for Jane Seymour, whom he married the day after the execution, and who died soon after giving birth to Prince Edward. He next married Anne of Cleves, but soon discarded her because he did not find her so handsome as she had been represented ; and Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, his prime-minister, having been instrumental in bringing about this joyless marriage, lost the favor of his sovereign, and suffered death on the scaffold. Catherine Howard, whom he next married, was condemned and executed for adultery. But Catherine Parr, his sixth wife, had the good fortune to survive him.

12. Some recent historians take a view of Henry's life and character more favorable than that entertained by the enemies of the Tudor family. It is thought that the circumstances of the age in which this sovereign lived should mitigate somewhat the severity with which he has been judged.

13. Henry VIII. left three children, — *Mary*, daughter of Catherine of Aragon ; *Elizabeth*, daughter of Anne Boleyn ; and *Edward*, son of Jane Seymour. The last succeeded him (1547), with the title of **Edward VI.**, in his tenth year ; Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, uncle of the young king, being appointed protector ; and after his fall the Duke of Northumberland was raised to the same office. Edward's short reign was distracted by contests between

those to whom the direction of public affairs was intrusted. But the Protestant influence prevailed in the government, the cause of the Reformation was promoted, and the reformed liturgy was modelled under the direction of Cranmer; yet a great part of the people were still attached to the Catholic faith.

14. Edward, a prince of great hopes and virtues, died in his sixteenth year, deeply lamented. So different was his character from that of his father, that he is said never to have signed an order for an execution against any person without shedding tears. Just before his death he had been prevailed upon, by the interested influence and intrigues of the Duke of Northumberland, the protector, to set aside his sisters Mary and Elizabeth, and bequeath the crown to Jane Grey, great-grand-daughter of Henry VII., who was married to Lord Guilford Dudley, a son of the protector.

15. Immediately after the death of Edward, Lady Jane Grey, who had been appointed successor by the intrigues of her friends, was proclaimed queen by her adherents; but, after wearing the crown ten days, she resigned it, and would gladly have returned to private life. **His character.**  
**Lady Jane Grey.**  
**Mary** was soon acknowledged the rightful heir, and succeeded to the throne in 1553. The youth and innocence of Lady Jane and her husband (neither of them exceeding their seventeenth year) pleaded strongly in their favor; yet they were both seized, and cast into prison.

16. In the second year after she succeeded to the throne, Mary was married to Philip II. of Spain, — a union unpopular with her subjects, and productive of little happiness to herself. **Her marriage.** Upon the announcement of this projected marriage several rebellions took place, and in one of these some of the friends of Lady Jane Grey took part. This sealed the fate of the unfortunate lady, and she and her husband were soon after put to death.

17. Lady Jane Grey, who is described as a rare scholar and a young woman of singular virtues and accomplishments, sent,

on the day of her execution, a message to her husband, who desired to see her, informing him that the tenderness of their last interview would be too much for her to bear. **Character of Jane Grey.** “Tell him,” added she, “that our separation will be only for a moment. We shall soon meet each other in a place where our affections shall be forever united, and where misfortunes will never more disturb our eternal felicity.” Lady Jane’s tutor was Sir Roger Ascham, one of the most eminent scholars of the time, and a distinguished teacher, who numbered among his pupils Queen Elizabeth, Edward VI., and many of the children of the nobility.

**18.** Mary was educated a strict Catholic, and she caused to be annulled many of the acts of her father, Henry VIII., and of her brother, Edward VI., in favor of the Protestant religion. **Mary and her religion.** estants; and the Catholic religion was restored. Northumberland was beheaded; and Archbishop Cranmer, who assisted Henry VIII. in his divorce from Mary’s mother, was imprisoned in the Tower.

**19.** Mary’s early life was one of sorrow and suffering. The unfortunate influence of her father’s domestic life, and the fear and persecution which she suffered at the hands of her enemies, unfavorably affected her health and temper: hence, in her efforts to re-establish and protect the Catholic Church, which she sincerely believed to be the true church, she was led to extreme measures. A general persecution was commenced against the reformers. The men who had been most forward in establishing the Protestant religion in England were singled out for punishment; and among the most eminent martyrs who were burnt at Smithfield (1555) were Cranmer, Latimer, Ridley, Hooper, Ferrar, and Rogers. **Mary’s character and policy.** By these proceedings the feelings of the people were shocked. The excellent character of most of the sufferers, and the undaunted spirit which they exhibited, produced a strong sensation in their favor, and diminished the influence of the Church of Rome; so that these measures

tended to forward rather than to check the progress of the Reformation.

20. Through the influence of her husband Mary became involved in the war between Spain and France; and in 1558 the French, under the Duke of Guise (*Gwecs*), The loss of Calais. besieged and retook Calais, which had been in the hands of the English more than two hundred years. The loss of this stronghold, the last of her possessions in France, was a severe blow to the queen; and soon after this event she died, feeling bitter vexation for the loss, and for being aware that she was an object of aversion to her husband and to a great part of her subjects. She left few to lament her, and there was scarcely the semblance of sorrow for her death.

21. The accession of **Elizabeth** to the throne in 1558 was hailed by the nation with joyful acclamations. Scarcely had she entered upon her new duties when she received Elizabeth's offers of marriage. an offer of marriage from Philip II. of Spain, the husband of her late sister Mary. Philip's kingdom at this time embraced Spain, Portugal, Italy, the Netherlands, and portions of the East and the West Indies; and he hoped, by marrying Elizabeth, to add England also to his realm. But the offer was declined, as were similar ones from the Kings of Denmark and Sweden. In the following year the Commons asked the queen to fix her choice of a husband: but she replied that she had espoused the kingdom; England was her husband, and all Englishmen her children; and that, while engaged in rearing such a family, her life could not be considered unprofitable.

22. Elizabeth had a long and auspicious reign, during which Character of her reign. tranquillity was maintained in her dominions, while the neighboring nations were convulsed with dissensions; and England rose from the rank of a secondary kingdom to a level with the first states of Europe. The Protestant religion was again restored and protected; the Church of England was established in its present form; and many Protestants

who had previously sought refuge on the continent now returned, and were called "Puritans." The nation attained a higher state of prosperity than it had ever before known in agriculture, commerce, arts, and literature. This reign, often called the "Augustan age of English literature," was illustrated by the great names of Hooker (one of the most eminent divines), Bacon the philosopher, Spenser the author of "The Faery Queen," and Shakspeare.

23. Elizabeth is charged with treachery and cruelty in her treatment of Mary, Queen of Scots, — a woman whose extraordinary beauty and misfortunes seem, in the minds of many, to have thrown a veil over all the defects of her character. Mary was great-grand-daughter of Henry VII., and next heir to Elizabeth to the throne of England. She had been educated in France as a Catholic, and married, when very young, to the dauphin, afterwards Francis II. She had been persuaded, imprudently, to assume the title of "Queen of England," — a circumstance which proved fatal to her peace. On the death of Francis she returned to Scotland, at the age of eighteen years. At this period the Reformation, by the zealous labors of John Knox, had made great progress in that country; and the people regarded their Catholic queen with abhorrence, and looked to her enemy Elizabeth for support.

Mary married for her second husband her cousin Henry Stuart (Lord Darnley), who soon became disagreeable to her, and was in less than two years murdered. In about three months after this tragical event she married (1567) the Earl of Bothwell, who was stigmatized as the murderer of Darnley. Her conduct excited against her the whole kingdom of Scotland. Public indignation could no longer be restrained. The nobles rose against her and her husband Bothwell. She was taken, confined in the Castle of Loch Leven, and was at length compelled to resign the crown to her infant son, who was proclaimed James VI.; and her illegitimate brother, the Earl of Murray, a friend to the Reformation, was appointed regent during the young king's minority.



In less than a year, Mary, by the assistance of friends, effected her escape from Loch Leven Castle, and fled into England, hoping to secure the favor of her rival, Elizabeth. In this, however, she was disappointed. After being kept as a prisoner more than eighteen years in different places, she was tried on an accusation of having been accessory to a conspiracy against the Queen of England, was condemned, and beheaded in one of the rooms of Fotheringhay Castle in the forty-fifth year of her age.

24. Elizabeth warmly espoused the cause of the Netherlands in their revolt against the authority of Philip II. of Spain; and her admiral, Sir Francis Drake, had taken some of **The Spanish** the Spanish possessions in South America. To **Armada.** avenge these offences, and to subjugate the leading Protestant power, the Spanish "Invincible Armada," a more formidable fleet than Europe had ever before witnessed, was fitted out for the invasion of England.

This armament consisted of a hundred and fifty ships, three thousand pieces of cannon, and twenty-seven thousand men. It entered the English Channel in the form of a crescent, extending its two extremities to the distance of seven miles. It was met by the English fleet, consisting of a hundred and eight ships, commanded by those distinguished maritime chiefs, Howard, Drake, Hawkins, Frobisher, and Raleigh. Being gradually weakened, and finally overtaken by a storm, the Armada suffered an entire defeat. Only fifty vessels, with six thousand men, returned to Spain.

25. The age of Elizabeth was fruitful in men of talents; and she was assisted in her government by eminent statesmen, among whom were Bacon, Burleigh, and Walsing- **Eminent** ham, — men wholly devoted to the interests of the **statesmen.** nation. But her chief personal favorites were unworthy. Of these, in the early part of her reign, the principal was Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. After his death, Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, a young nobleman of accomplishments, talents, and high spirit, possessed the first place in her affections. The

queen and Essex had many quarrels and reconciliations ; but his brilliant career was finally brought to a sad and tragical end.

26. Elizabeth's attention was frequently called to the unsettled state of Scotland and Ireland, both of which had received sympathy and assistance from France and Spain. An Irish chieftain, whom the queen had made Earl of Tyrone, raised the standard of revolt, and for some time defied all attempts to reduce him and his clan to subjection. Finally Essex was intrusted with an army for quelling this rebellion. But his blunders and delays soon brought upon him a reprimand from the queen : whereupon he hastily returned to London, thereby incurring the displeasure of Elizabeth, who immediately curtailed his liberty, and caused his movements to be closely watched. Failing to regain the queen's confidence, and to secure the continuance of some commercial monopolies which he had formerly enjoyed, Essex finally broke into open rebellion, and attempted to seize the government ; but his plans were frustrated (1601), and he was convicted of treason, and beheaded.

27. Elizabeth, who had surprised the nations of Europe by the splendor of her course, was destined to close the evening of her life in gloom and sorrow. Some ascribe the deep depression and mental suffering which she at this period endured to the neglect which she imagined she experienced on account of her age and infirmities, when, to use her own expression, "men would turn their backs on the setting to worship the rising sun ;" others to the revival of her regret for the death of Essex, whom she had given up for his invincible obstinacy, but who, she now discovered, had actually thrown himself upon her clemency, while his enemies had found means to conceal his application. The Countess of Nottingham, now upon her death-bed (according to various historians), sent for the queen, to confess to her that Essex, while under the sentence of death, had desired her to convey to Elizabeth a ring

which she had given him with the assurance that the sight of it would at any time recall her tenderness ; but that she had neglected to deliver it. The queen, in a frenzy of passion, shook the dying countess, exclaiming, “ God may forgive you ; but I never can ! ” From that moment she sank into a deep melancholy, rejected all sustenance, and died (1603) in profound grief, in the forty-fifth year of her reign and the seventieth of her age.

28. Elizabeth was distinguished for her learning, and spoke fluently Greek, Latin, French, and Spanish. She possessed extraordinary talents for government, was great as a public character, and commanded the high respect of her subjects and of foreign nations. Her three leading maxims of policy were to secure the affections of her subjects, to be frugal of her treasures, and to excite dissensions among her enemies. She manifested less regard for the liberty than for the prosperity of the people. In the former part of her reign she was comparatively moderate and humble, but afterwards haughty and severe. Both her disposition and her principles were despotic. With regard to religion, she persecuted both Catholics and Puritans ; but, like her father, she had a leaning towards Rome in almost every thing except the doctrine of Papal supremacy.

29. Her private character is less to be admired, being tarnished with insincerity and cruelty, and destitute of the milder and softer virtues of her sex. Her manners were haughty and overbearing, and her conversation grossly profane. Vain of her beauty (which she only could discover), delighted with the praise of her charms even at the age of sixty-five, jealous of every female competitor to a degree which the youngest and silliest of her sex might despise, and subject to sallies of anger which no sense of dignity could restrain, she furnishes a remarkable instance of great moral weaknesses united with high intellectual superiority.

## MODE OF LIFE, AND STATE OF SOCIETY.

**30.** The style of living among the nobility at the close of the sixteenth century was luxurious, and attended with much ceremony and ostentation. On occasions of entertainment and feasting, enormous quantities of food and beer were consumed, a great display of plate was made, and servants were numerous. Among all classes May festivals and weddings were celebrated with great joy and hilarity.

**31.** The dwellings of the wealthier classes were quite well built ; many of them being of a style in which two projecting wings and a porch were supposed to represent the letter E, the queen's initial. The houses of the peasants were generally constructed of stone or brick, and many articles of useful furniture had been introduced. Table-covers and napkins were in use ; feather-beds had taken the place of the pallet of straw ; and pewter plates were used instead of wooden trenchers.

**32.** The styles of dress were various, and often extravagant and grotesque. Common pins with heads, for fastening garments, came into use in this century ; watches were imported from Germany ; and the manufacture of paper was commenced.

**33.** From the Continent, clover, hops, salads, cabbages, and melons were introduced and cultivated ; as were also apricots, currants, plums, and cherries from the East. Pleasure-gardens were common, and well laid out, into which were introduced the gillyflower, the carnation-pink, and several varieties of roses, including the musk-rose.

**34.** Numerous flocks of sheep were pastured by the peasants, and wool was an article of extensive trade and manufacture. The common people were generally industrious and contented ; though begging and robbery were common, and often called for the interposition of the strong arm of the law.

35. Although many colleges and schools were founded, and there were very learned men and women, the great mass of the people were deplorably ignorant. It is related that Shakspeare's father, though an alderman, was not able to write his own name. Education.

36. The century was one of activity in commerce and exploration. Trade was greatly extended in the East ; cod-fishing on the banks of Newfoundland was commenced ; ships were sent into the northern seas in search of whales ; Japan, Greenland, and Northern Russia, were visited ; and considerable portions of the New World were explored. The voyages of Raleigh and others along the American coast, and the circumnavigation of the globe by Sir Francis Drake, contributed much in giving a wonderful impulse to maritime adventure. Commerce  
and exploration.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE STUART FAMILY (PART I.).

(FROM JAMES I. TO THE COMMONWEALTH.)

1603 to 1649, — 46 years.

James I.

Charles I.

**E**LIZABETH, on the approach of death, nominated for her successor the son of her rival Mary, James VI. of Scotland, who was the rightful heir by descent. He took the title of **James I.** of England (1603), and in him the two crowns were united. He was the first of the Stuarts, — a family whose reign was one continued struggle for power between the monarch and the people, and who were characterized by despotic principles, injudicious conduct, and such a want of gratitude and good faith as to be proverbial for leaving their friends in distress.

2. James had scarcely arrived in England when a conspiracy was discovered for subverting the government, and placing on the throne his cousin, Arabella Stuart. The celebrated Sir Walter Raleigh, who had been distinguished in the preceding reign, was sentenced to death on an accusation of being connected in this plot. He was, however, reprieved, cast into prison, and, fifteen years after his condemnation, was, at the instigation of the king, barbarously beheaded.

Another conspiracy followed, of a more daring nature. This was the famous “Gunpowder Plot,” — a design of some desperate Catholics to blow up the parliament-house, and involve in one common destruction the king,

lords, and commons. Just on the eve of its accomplishment the plot was discovered ; and Guy Fawkes was taken, having matches for firing the magazine in his pocket.

3. It was the characteristic weakness of James to attach himself to worthless favorites : such were Carr, Earl of Somerset, and Villiers, Duke of Buckingham,—men on whom **Bad asso-** he bestowed his favors with the utmost prodigality, **ciates.** though they were of profligate character, odious to the people, and were possessed of no merit, except external beauty and superficial accomplishments.

4. The spirit of commercial enterprise, so active in the time of Elizabeth, gave rise in this reign to extensive schemes of colonization, one of which resulted in planting a **American** colony on James River in Virginia, the oldest Eng- **Colonies.** lish town in the United States, and which, in honor of the king, was called Jamestown.

During the reign of Mary the Puritans first made their appearance ; and in the time of Elizabeth they became, in a considerable degree, \*conspicuous. They were **The Puri-** strenuous advocates for freedom in the state, and a **tans.** more thorough reformation in religion. At the accession of James they cherished high hopes that their views would meet with more favor than during the reign of the late queen, inas- much as he had been educated in Presbyterianism. But, of all persons, they were the most disappointed. So great was their dissatisfaction, that some of them sought refuge from their restraints and persecutions in the wilds of America, and com- menced (1620) the settlement of *New England*.

5. The version of the Bible known as King James's Version, the one now in use by Protestants, was made during **The common** the reign of James (1611) by a large committee **English** of divines and scholars appointed by the king for **Bible.** that purpose.

In 1619 Harvey made his famous discovery of the circula- tion of the blood.

6. The leading characteristic of James was his love of arbitrary power. The divine right of kings to govern their subjects without control was his favorite topic in conversation and in his speeches to Parliament. The best part of his character was his pacific disposition ; and his reign, which lasted twenty-two years, though ignoble to himself, was in many respects happy to his people, who were enriched by peace and commerce. In his private character his morals were far from being pure. He possessed considerable ingenuity, and a good deal of learning, but more pedantry. He blended a childish and degrading familiarity so incongruously with a ridiculous vanity, insufferable arrogance, and a vulgar stateliness, that he reminds us more of some mock king in a farce than a real one on the theatre of history. He was excessively fond of flattery, which was dealt out to him with an unsparing hand by his bishops and parasites, who styled him the "British Solomon ;" yet, in the opinion of less interested observers, he merited the appellation given him by the Duke of Sully, — that of "the wisest fool in Europe." "He was," says Bishop Burnet, "the scorn of the age, a mere pèdant, without true judgment, courage, or steadiness, his reign being a continued course of mean practices."

7. The increase of commerce, and consequent influx of wealth, the diffusion of information, the little respect cherished for the personal character of the king, the disappointed hopes of the Puritans, the multiplication of their numbers, the controversies in which they were engaged, and the privations to which they were subjected, all conspired to diffuse widely the spirit of liberty. The current of public opinion was now strongly turned to an extension of the rights of the people, and to a retrenchment of the power of the sovereign ; and during this reign the seeds were sown of that spirit of resistance to despotic power, on the part of the people, which in the next produced a subversion of the monarchy.

8. **Charles I.** ascended the throne (1625) in his twenty-



fifth year, under favorable circumstances. His title was undisputed, and the kingdom was in a flourishing condition. But, within the last fifty years, public opinion in the **State of the nation** had undergone a great change ; and many of **kingdom.** his subjects were extremely jealous of their civil and religious liberties, and would no longer be governed by precedents which had their origin in times of ignorance and slavery. He soon gave proof that he inherited the same arbitrary principles with his father ; and the same worthless favorite, Buckingham, retained his influence and authority. Soon after his accession, Charles married Henrietta Maria, daughter of Henry IV. of France.

9. In the latter part of the reign of James, Charles, accompanied by Buckingham, had visited the court of Madrid in order to solicit the hand of the infanta in marriage. **Arbitrary measures of the king.** The negotiation, however, failed through the misconduct of Buckingham ; and England was involved in a war with Spain. Soon after Charles ascended the throne, he was offended with the Parliament for refusing to grant him sufficient supplies in carrying on this war, and for resisting his arbitrary designs ; and, having adopted the resolution to rule without their aid, he proceeded to levy money in various ways, independent of their authority. One of these methods was by a tax on merchandise, called “tonnage and poundage ;” and another by a tax called “ship-money.” **Ship-money.** The money raised by the latter was now levied not only on seaport towns, but over the whole kingdom ; and Charles claimed the right to command his subjects, without an act of Parliament, to provide and furnish ships, together with men, victuals, and ammunition, in such numbers, and at such time, as he should think proper,—a claim which struck at the vital principle of a free government. This assessment of ship-money is the famous tax which first roused the whole nation at length to fix and determine, after a long continuance of an unsettled constitution, the bounds of their own freedom and the king’s prerogative.

**10.** A noble stand was made against the payment of this imposition by John Hampden, a man who, on account of his high character for talents, integrity, and patriotism, possessed the greatest influence in parliament and in the nation. But although the venal judges decided the cause against him, yet he obtained the end for which he sacrificed his quiet and his safety. The people, believing that the decision was unjust, were roused from their lethargy, and became fully sensible of the danger to which their liberties were exposed.

**11.** An important measure passed by the Commons early in the reign of Charles was called the “Petition of Rights,” — a law which the king was compelled to sign, securing the observance of certain rights guaranteed by Magna Charta, but which Charles had often disregarded.

**12.** The Duke of Buckingham having been assassinated by Felton, an Irish fanatic, the Earl of Strafford, the most able and devoted champion of the claims of the crown, and the most formidable enemy of the liberties of the people, became the chief counsellor of the king; and Archbishop Laud had the principal influence in ecclesiastical affairs. The current of the public sentiment was now running strongly towards Puritanism, in favor of a simpler form of worship. But Laud, so far from countenancing this tendency, had overloaded the church with new ceremonies, which were displeasing to the people, and which he enforced with the most intolerant zeal. Not satisfied with attempting to enforce conformity in England, the king undertook to establish episcopacy in Scotland also, and to impose the use of the English liturgy upon the national church. This measure excited a strong sensation among all ranks, from the peer to the peasant: even the women were not backward in manifesting opposition. In one of the churches of Edinburgh, on the day when the introduction of the liturgy was first attempted, no sooner had the service begun than an old woman, impelled by sudden indignation, started up, and, exclaiming aloud against the innovation, threw the stool on

which she had been sitting at the preacher's head. The assembly was instantly in confusion, nor could the minister finish the service. The people from without burst open the doors, and broke the windows; and a scene of great disorder brought the services to an end.

13. The prelates were equally unsuccessful in most instances, throughout Scotland, in enforcing the liturgy. The National Covenant, which was first framed at the Reformation, and which renounced Episcopacy as well as Roman Catholicism, was renewed, and subscribed by all ranks; and afterwards a new bond, of similar purport, but still more determined and hostile in its spirit, styled the "Solemn League and Covenant," was formed and signed by many in England as well as in Scotland, who combined for their mutual defence.

Opposition  
to episco-  
pacy.

14. After eleven years' intermission, the king found it necessary in 1640 to convoke a parliament; but the House of Commons, instead of listening to his demands for supplies, began with presenting the public grievances under three heads, — those of the broken privileges of Parliament, of illegal taxes, and of violence done to the cause of religion. Charles, perceiving he had nothing favorable to hope from their deliberations, soon dissolved the Assembly. By another parliament, which was not long afterwards assembled, Strafford and Laud were sent to the Tower on several charges of endeavoring to subvert the constitution, and to introduce arbitrary power. Strafford was brought to trial on a charge of treason, and was condemned and beheaded; and, five years afterwards, Laud suffered the same fate.

The king and  
parliament.

15. Charles had, in 1629, violated the privileges of Parliament by causing nine members to be imprisoned for the part which they had taken in debate. But he was now betrayed into a still greater indiscretion, which contributed much towards kindling the flame of civil war. This was the impeachment of Lord Kimbolton and five

Bold meas-  
ures of the  
king.

distinguished commoners, — Pym, Hampden, Hollis, Hazlerig, and Strode, — and his going himself to the House to seize them, leaving two hundred armed men at the door. Having entered the House, he ordered the speaker, Lenthall, to point them out. “Sir,” answered the speaker, falling on his knees, “I have neither eyes to see, nor tongue to speak, in this place, but as the House is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am; and I humbly ask pardon that I cannot give any other answer to what your Majesty is pleased to demand of me.” The king withdrew without effecting his object, amidst low but distinct mur-

murs of “Privilege, privilege !”

This ill-advised and abortive attempt, which was condemned both by his friends and enemies, completed the degradation of the unfortunate monarch. He afterwards apologized to Parliament for this conduct. But the day of reconciliation was past : he had lost the confidence of that body, and they were now prepared, not only to confine his power within legal bounds, but to strip him of his constitutional authority.



A CAVALIER.

16. Both parties resolved to stake the issue of the contest

on the sword, and the standard of civil war was now (1642) erected. The cause of the king was supported by three-fourths of the nobility and superior gentry, by the bishops, and advocates of episcopacy, and by the Catholics; that of the Parliament, by the yeomanry of the country, the merchants and tradesmen in the towns, by the Puritans, or opponents of episcopacy, comprising the Presbyterians, Independents, and other dissenters. The supporters of the king were styled “Cavaliers;” those of the Parliament,

Civil war  
and its  
parties.

“Roundheads,” — an appellation given to them by their adversaries because many of them cropped their hair short.

17. A religious spirit, unfortunately tinctured with fanaticism, extravagance, and party feeling, was at this period widely diffused throughout Great Britain ; and it formed a prominent characteristic of most of the leaders in Parliament, and also of those who took up arms in defence of their liberties. The charge of license and excess fell chiefly on the royalists, a great part of whom were men of pleasure, disposed to deride the sanctity and austere morality of their opponents. “All the sober men that I was acquainted with, who were against the Parliament,” says the celebrated Richard Baxter, “used to say, ‘The king had the better cause ; but the Parliament had the better men.’ ”

18. England had been comparatively but little engaged in war since the accession of Henry VII., and it had but few men of military experience. The chief commanders in the **Leaders and** royal army, besides the **battles.**

king, were the Earl of Lindsey, Prince Rupert, and Sir Jacob Astley ; and in the parliamentary army the Earl of Essex had the chief command at first, then Lord Fairfax, and afterwards Oliver Cromwell. In the early part of the contest, each side lost one of their greatest and best men, — Hampden on the part of the Parliament, and Lord Falkland on that of the king. In the battles of Edgehill (1642) and Newbury (1643) the royalists had the advantage ; but in those of Marston Moor (1643) and Naseby (1645) they were entirely defeated.

19. After the war had raged nearly five years the king fell into the hands of his enemies, who held him for some time a



A ROUNDHEAD.

prisoner. At length a minority of the House of Commons, after having expelled their colleagues, being under the influence of the parliamentary army, instituted a high court of justice, composed of a hundred and thirty-three members, for trying him on a charge of treason. Of this court Bradshaw was appointed president. The king, having been arraigned before this tribunal, received the sentence, that “the court, being satisfied that Charles Stuart is guilty of the crimes of which he has been charged, do adjudge him—as a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy to the good people of the nation—to be put to death by severing his head from his body.”

**20.** Charles was now no longer the man he had been before the civil war. Affliction had chastened his mind. He had sought and found strength and relief in the consolations of religion, and his conduct during his trial exalted his character even in the estimation of his enemies. He denied the authority of the court, but declared that he forgave those who were the cause of his death, and submitted to his fate with fortitude and composure. Having laid his head on the block, one of the masked executioners severed it from his body at a blow: the other, holding it up, exclaimed, “Behold the head of a traitor!” while the sobs and lamentations of the spectators were mingled with the acclamations of the soldiery (1649).

**21.** Such was the end of Charles I.,—an awful lesson to kings to watch the growth of public opinion, and to moderate their pretensions in conformity with the reasonable desires of their subjects. His execution, however, was contrary to the general feelings of the nation, and was the deed of comparatively a few men, actuated by ambition or the madness of the times. Even of the commissioners appointed to sit in judgment on him, only about half could be induced to attend his trial. But the manner of his death has tended to exalt his posthumous reputation; for, while it has moderated

the reproaches of his adversaries, it has enhanced the encomiums of his advocates, who have styled him the "Royal Martyr," and in sympathy for his sufferings, and resentment against the régicides, have been disposed to overlook his misdeeds which brought him to the scaffold.

22. It was the misfortune of Charles to inherit despotic principles from his ancestors, to be educated in a servile and profligate court, and to be surrounded by wretched counsellors. He was one of the last men to learn the important lesson, which princes in all ages have been slow to learn, that the influence of authority must ultimately bend to the influence of opinion. But his greatest defect, as well as the principal cause of his ruin, was the system of duplicity and insincerity upon which he acted in his public character. Such was his want of fidelity in his engagements, that the Parliament could never confide in his promises. But, weak and reprehensible as he was as a king, he was by no means destitute of abilities. He was possessed of considerable learning, and good talents as a speaker and writer, and in his private character was exemplary. In his manners he is represented as cold, stiff, and formal, preserving a state and reserve which were calculated to alienate those who approached him. With respect to religion, "he was," says Bishop Burnet, "much inclined to a middle way between Protestants and Papists."

His character and ability.

23. The proceedings of Charles were at direct variance with every principle of civil and religious liberty; and, had they been acquiesced in on the part of the people, England might now have been a despotism. Mr. Hume, the great apologist for the Stuart family, acknowledges the services of the Puritans, "by whom alone," according to him, "the precious spark of liberty had been kindled and was preserved, and to whom the English owe the whole freedom of their constitution."

Not a friend of liberty.

24. The intention of those who first resisted the despotic and intolerant measures of the king and his court were doubt-

less upright and patriotic ; and their exertions to secure the rights of the nation, which had been wantonly violated, entitle them to the gratitude of posterity. Yet it must be acknowledged that those who opposed the intolerance of the king and of Laud had themselves no consistent principles of religious liberty. In the progress of the contest party spirit and fanaticism were called into powerful operation ; and the leaders of the popular party in many cases acted on the principle that the end sanctifies the means, and appeared to think themselves absolved from all obligations of honor and honesty. Right and justice were outraged by those who professed to have drawn the sword in their defence. But such inconsistency is characteristic of revolutions.



## CHAPTER III.

### THE COMMONWEALTH, OR PROTECTORATE.

1649 to 1660, — 11 years.

Oliver Cromwell.

THE death of the king (1649) was soon followed by the abolition both of the monarchy and the House of Lords by the Commons. A republican government was established, and a council of state was appointed as the executive branch of the government, of which John Milton the poet was secretary. It was publicly proclaimed that the supreme authority of the nation resided in the representatives of the people, and that it should be accounted treason to give any person the title of king without the authority of Parliament.

2. After the execution of Laud, Episcopacy had been abolished, and Presbyterianism substituted in its stead. But the Presbyterian interest soon began to decline, and the Independents gained the ascendancy; and the power which the Parliament had wrested from the king was at length, by the management of Cromwell, transferred to the army. Before the trial of Charles, measures had been taken to exclude the Presbyterians from Parliament; and that part of the House which remained, distinguished by the ridiculous name of the "Rump," was composed of Independents, under the influence of Cromwell. In this manner the Presbyterians, who had overturned the church and the throne, fell victims to

the military power which they had used as the instrument for accomplishing their designs.

3. The Parliament of Scotland took no part in the trial of the king ; and after his death they proclaimed Charles II. their sovereign, on condition of his signing the Covenant. **Dunbar and Worcester.** Cromwell, at the head of sixteen thousand men, marched into Scotland, and defeated (1650) the royalist Covenanters in the battle of Dunbar. The royal army, retreating into England, was pursued by Cromwell ; and, in the desperate battle of Worcester (1651), almost the whole of the troops were killed or taken prisoners, and the victorious commander returned in triumph to London.

4. Young Charles escaped with difficulty. He assumed the disguise of a peasant, journeying in the least-frequented roads, **Charles II. a fugitive.** travelling only in the night, and passing the day in obscure cottages, where he was unknown, and where his food was generally a little coarse bread and milk. On one occasion he sought safety by concealing himself for a day in the top of a large oak. In that precarious situation he saw and heard his pursuers, as they passed by, talking of him, and expressing a wish that they might discover the place of his concealment. After two months of romantic adventure, he found an opportunity of escaping to France.

5. The republican Parliament passed (1651) the famous Navigation Act, which, by prohibiting the importation of all **War with Holland.** foreign merchandise, except in English bottoms or in those of the country producing the commodities, tended greatly to promote the naval superiority of Great Britain. This act, the object of which was to wrest the carrying-trade of Europe from the Dutch, was the cause of a war between England and Holland, which terminated in favor of the former, and in which the celebrated Admiral Blake distinguished himself, and had for his antagonists the great Dutch maritime chiefs Van Tromp and De Ruyter, the former of whom, while sailing through the Channel, carried a broom at masthead, thus indi-

cating his determination to sweep the English fleet from the ocean.

6. The Parliament, which had been in session twelve years, known by the name of the "Long Parliament," had lost the confidence of the people. It had been subservient to the views of Cromwell; but, having at length become jealous of him, it formed the design of reducing the army, intending by that means to diminish his power. Cromwell, perceiving their object, and being secure of the attachment of the army, resolved on seizing the sovereign power. While sitting in a council of officers, on being informed of an unfavorable reply of Parliament to a petition which they had presented, he rose up on a sudden with an appearance of fury, and, turning to Major-Gen. Vernon, cried out that he was compelled to do a thing which made the very hairs of his head stand on end. Taking with him three hundred soldiers to the door, he speedily entered the House, with marks of violent indignation in his countenance; and, after listening a while to the debates, he started up, and began to load the Parliament with reproaches. Then, stamping upon the floor, he gave a signal for his soldiers to enter; and addressing himself to the members, "For shame!" said he. "Get you gone! Give place to honest men! I tell you you are no longer a parliament: the Lord has done with you!" Having turned out all the members, he ordered the doors to be locked.

7. In this manner Cromwell seized the reins of government. But he was willing to give his subjects a parliament, not, indeed, elected in the usual form, but modelled on principles entirely new. The ministers took the sense of the "Congregational churches" in the several counties, and returns were made containing the names of such persons as were deemed qualified for this high trust. Out of these, the council, in the presence of Cromwell, selected a hundred and sixty-three representatives, to each of whom a writ of summons was sent, requiring his attendance; and on the appointed day

**Cromwell  
and Long  
Parliament.**

**Cromwell,  
Protector.**

a hundred and twenty of them presented themselves in the council-chamber at Whitehall. This body, composed of men who were deeply imbued with the fanaticism of the times, is known by the name of the "Little Parliament;" and is also often called "Barebone's Parliament," from a leading member, a leather-dresser, whose name, given according to the taste of the age, was Praise-God Barebone. The Little Parliament assembled on the 4th of July, 1653, and was dissolved in the following December. At the time of its dissolution a new constitution was published, and Cromwell assumed the title and office of Protector, having now obtained the great object of his ambition, — the station and authority, though not the title, of king. He was assisted by a council of twenty-one members; and, instead of the title of Majesty, he received that of Highness. He afterwards aspired to the title of king, which was at length tendered to him, yet under such circumstances of opposition and danger, that he thought proper to decline it.

8. The government which he had usurped he administered with unrivalled energy and ability, and he was the most able and powerful potentate of his time in Europe. **Character of his administration.** Abroad, his fleets and armies were victorious; and the island of Jamaica, and the strong town of Dunkirk in the north-eastern part of France, were taken from the Spaniards. At home he defeated and punished the conspiracies formed against him; granted religious toleration; caused justice to be ably and impartially administered by upright and learned judges; made himself to be respected and dreaded by the neighboring nations, and his friendship to be sought by every foreign power; and the splendor of his character and exploits rendered the short period of the protectorate one of the most brilliant in English history. Nor were the rights of England, under the reign of any other sovereign, more respected abroad. But, notwithstanding all his efforts, his enemies were numerous among both the royalists and republicans. He passed the last part of his life in constant fear of assassination, wore armor under his clothes, kept pistols in his pocket, and never slept

more than three nights in the same chamber. At last, after having usurped the government nine years, he died of a tertian ague (1658), in the sixtieth year of his age.

9. Cromwell was one of the greatest and most extraordinary men that England has produced, and, till the rise of Bonaparte, his name was without a parallel in modern Europe. **His abilities and career.** Men were accustomed to look with a feeling of awe upon the individual, who, without the aid of birth, wealth, or connections, was able by the force of his talents to seize the government of three powerful kingdoms, and impose the yoke of servitude upon the necks of the very men who had fought in his company to emancipate themselves from the arbitrary sway of their hereditary sovereign.

He owed his elevation to his influence with the army; and the character of that body and that of their leader were, in a great measure, mutually formed by each other. The officers and soldiers made high professions of religion. Religious exercises were of as frequent occurrence as those of military duty. The generals opened their proceedings in council by prayer; and among them Cromwell was pre-eminent in spiritual gifts, and was regarded by them as the favorite of Heaven. While eagerly toiling up the ascent to greatness, he labored to make it appear that he was involuntarily borne forward by a resistless force, by the wishes of the army, by the necessities of the state, and by the will of Providence; and, in assuming authority, he yielded with feigned reluctance to the advice which he had himself suggested.

The name of Cromwell has been subjected to the almost universal charge of unbounded ambition and deep hypocrisy; and there is scarcely to be met with in the annals of the world another man alike conspicuous, and possessed of equal merit in his public and private character, who has been more severely criticised. This is, indeed, a natural result, as his **His place in history.** course was considered alike hostile to legitimate monarchy and republican liberty, and rendered him equally odious to the two leading parties of the times, — the advocates

of the privileges of the people, and those of the prerogative of the king. But the lapse of time has lessened somewhat the severity of judgment passed upon his acts and motives, and many regard the principles for which he contended as the foundation of constitutional liberty as enjoyed in England at the present day.

**10.** Cromwell, in private life, in the several relations of a husband, a father, a neighbor, and a friend, was exemplary.

**Private character.** From his early days to the close of his career, religion, or religious enthusiasm, formed a distinguished trait in his character; and it frequently manifested itself in the senate and in the field, and also in his domestic retirement. Some writers have maintained that he was a dissembler in religion as well as in politics; "but this supposition," as Dr. Lingard justly observes, "is contradicted by the uniform tenor of his life."

**11.** Richard Cromwell, after the death of his father, was proclaimed protector. But the contrast between the father and

**Richard Cromwell.** son was very great. Richard was neither a statesman nor a soldier, had no experience in public business, and possessed feeble talents, and little ambition; and after a few months he resigned the office, and retired to private life. A state of anarchy succeeded, when Gen. Monk (afterwards Duke of Albemarle), the military commander in Scotland, marched his army into England, and crushed the contending factions. A parliament was assembled; and on the 29th of May, 1660, **Charles II.**, now thirty years of age, was restored to the throne of his father. This event is generally called the "Restoration."

## CHAPTER IV.

### THE STUART FAMILY (PART II.).

FROM THE END OF THE COMMONWEALTH TO THE HOUSE OF  
BRUNSWICK.

1660 to 1714, — 54 years.

Charles II.

James II.

William and Mary.

Anne.

THE nation, indiscreetly trusting to the general professions of **Charles II.**, suffered him to assume the crown (1660) without imposing on him any conditions; and his reign and that of James II. exhibit a repetition of struggles similar to those which had occurred under the first two princes of the house of Stuart. The first impressions with regard to the new king were favorable. His manners were easy and familiar, but his habits were indolent; and experience soon proved his character to be profligate and worthless.

2. The change in the public sentiment observable at this period is not a little remarkable. The same people who but a few years before were so jealous of liberty, and exclaimed so loudly against monarchical government, are now exhibited as soliciting with eagerness the return of arbitrary power. A number of the regicides were condemned and executed; and the bodies of Cromwell, Ireton his son-in-law, Bradshaw, and the naval hero Blake, were dug up from their graves, and hanged upon the gallows, to gratify the vindictive spirit of the king and the cavaliers. High-Church or Tory principles, and the servile doctrines of passive obedience and non-resistance, now came in vogue. An

Public sentiment  
changed.

act of Uniformity in religion was passed (1662), by which about two thousand nonconforming ministers were deprived of their livings ; and another attempt was made to establish episcopacy in Scotland.

3. The prodigality of Charles kept him always in want. Dunkirk, which had been acquired by Cromwell, he sold to the French for four hundred thousand pounds, which he soon squandered upon his pleasures. He entered into hostilities with the Dutch, which were carried on for some time with spirit. While this war was raging, London was visited (1665) by a terrible plague, which carried off about ninety thousand inhabitants ; and that was followed the next year by a fire, by which seventy-nine churches and many other public buildings, and more than thirteen thousand houses (comprising about two-thirds of the metropolis), were reduced to ashes.

4. In consequence of the unsuccessful issue of the war (which was terminated by the peace of Breda, 1667), and of the sale of Dunkirk, the government became unpopular ; and the celebrated Lord Clarendon, on whom the odium was chiefly cast, was banished, and passed the remainder of his life in France. After the fall of Clarendon the government became more unprincipled ; and the five ministers by whom it was conducted have been stigmatized by the term of "Cabal," so called from the initial letters of their names.

5. The Duke of York (afterwards James II.), who had now the chief influence at court, was an avowed Catholic : Charles, so far as he had any sense of religion, was a concealed one, and had the baseness to receive from Louis XIV. of France a pension of two hundred thousand pounds a year for the purpose of establishing the Catholic religion and despotic power in England. A general consternation for the safety of the Protestant religion and of public liberty prevailed ; and the latter part of Charles's reign exhibits



an uninterrupted series of attacks upon the lives, liberty, and property of his subjects, and a disgusting scene of party intrigues, and of plots and conspiracies. Yet it was **Habeas Corpus.** at this period that Parliament passed the Habeas Corpus Act, — a most important security to the subject against personal oppression.

6. A pretended Popish plot to murder the king, disclosed by the infamous Titus Oates, occasioned an unjust execution of Lord Stafford and some other Catholics. Another **Plots.** pretended conspiracy in favor of reform was called the “Rye-House Plot,” from the place where the conspirators held their meetings, in which those eminent patriots Lord Russell and Algernon Sidney were accused of being concerned, and, on testimony supposed to be perjured, were condemned and beheaded.

7. The character of the court, as well as that of the king, was notorious for its profligacy; and it had a most unhappy influence upon the nation. A general dissoluteness **Character of court and nation.** of manners characterized the reign. All appearance of devotion, and all regularity of morals, were regarded as puritanical, and exploded as unfashionable. Charles II. was a man of wit and good-humor, and possessed such talents as enabled him to shine among his gay and profligate companions; but he had no qualities as a man or a king that entitle him to the respect or gratitude of posterity.

8. Among the distinguished men who flourished in the reign of Charles were John Milton, the author of “Paradise Lost;” Sir Matthew Hale, the incorruptible chief justice; **Distin-** John Bunyan, the author of “Pilgrim’s Progress;” **guished men.** Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London; the poet Dryden; John Locke, the philosopher and metaphysician; and Sir Isaac Newton, the discoverer of the law of gravitation. Halley the astronomer made the first successful prediction of the return of a comet (the one bearing his name) in 1681.

The astronomical observatory at Greenwich was founded by Charles II. ; also the Royal Society for the Promotion of Science, — an association which soon included among its members many scholars who became eminent in the various departments of learning.

**9. James II.**, who succeeded (1685) his brother Charles, was inferior to him in talents, but much more devoted to business. Like his predecessors of the Stuart family, **Character of James II.** he was arbitrary and impolitic ; and his short and inglorious reign was mainly employed in attempts to establish the Catholic religion and despotic power. On assuming the government he expressed his contempt for the authority of Parliament, and his determination to exercise an unlimited despotism. Although the Catholics at this time formed but a very small proportion of the people of England, yet he undertook to set aside the Protestant religion, and, instead of it, to establish the Roman-Catholic faith.

**10.** The Duke of Monmouth, a natural son of Charles II., who during the preceding reign had defeated the Scottish **Monmouth** Covenanters at Bothwell Bridge, having now excited **and Jeffreys.** a rebellion with a view to seize the crown, was defeated, taken prisoner, and beheaded. The most inhuman rigor was exercised against those who favored him. The atrocious Chief Justice Jeffreys, the most noted as an unscrupulous and profligate judge in English history, exercised the most unrelenting cruelty. He gloried in his barbarity, and boasted that he had hanged more men than any other judge since the time of William the Conqueror ; and his bloody career was styled by James, with unfeeling jocularly, “Jeffreys’ campaign.”

**11.** The efforts of James in favor of the Catholic religion were, for a considerable time, attended with success ; but having caused seven bishops to be committed to the **Revolution of 1688.** Tower for refusing to read a proclamation suspending the Test Act, which required all officers to conform to the Established Church, the passive spirit of the nation disap-

peared, and a general indignation was roused. William, Prince of Orange, who had married Mary, the eldest daughter of James, was invited over, and landed at Torbay with an army, in order to assume the government. The principal nobility and officers soon joined his standard; and James, being deserted by the people, and even by his own children, escaped to France, where he passed the remainder of his life. A convention-parliament declared the king's flight an abdication, and settled the crown upon **William III. and Mary**. This event is styled by British writers the glorious Revolution of 1688.

**12.** The English navy became quite large and efficient during the reign of James, who, before he came to the throne, had gained some distinction as a naval **The navy.** commander. When Duke of York, he first invented a system of marine signals. The national anthem, "God save the King," was composed and first sung in the reign of this sovereign.

**13.** The British Constitution now became, in many important points, fixed and determined. The Protestant succession was secured, religious toleration granted, and Presby- **Principles** terianism re-established in Scotland. A declaration **established.** was made, fixing the rights of the subject and the prerogative of the king. Some of the most important articles are the following: 1. The king cannot suspend the laws or their execution. 2. He cannot levy money without the consent of Parliament. 3. The subjects have a right to petition the crown. 4. A standing army cannot be kept in time of peace, but with the consent of Parliament. 5. Elections and parliamentary debates must be free, and parliaments must be frequently assembled.

Archbishop Sancroft, seven other bishops, and a considerable number of the clergy, who held the doctrines of passive obedience and the divine right of kings and bishops, looking upon James as still their lawful king, refused to take the oath of allegiance to William, and were deprived of their stations. From this circumstance they were styled Non-jurors, High-Churchmen, and Jacobites.

**14.** Ireland still adhered to James, and the Parliament of that country declared William a usurper. Being assisted by Louis XIV. of France, James landed with some French forces in Ireland, where he was joined by a large army; but he was defeated by William at the River Boyne, and the country submitted to the new king. A large fleet which Louis XIV. had prepared in favor of James was destroyed by Admiral Russell off Cape la Hogue; and by the Peace of Ryswick, which followed (1697), the title of William to the crown was acknowledged.

**15.** William was a man of feeble constitution, but of distinguished talents, especially in war, to which his taste strongly inclined him; and he was esteemed one of the greatest commanders of his age. He was rather fitted to command respect than affection, as he excelled more in the severer than in the milder virtues, being wholly devoted to business, and his manners being cold, grave, and reserved. He was a firm friend to civil and religious liberty. But he was less popular with his subjects than some other sovereigns of far less merit. Mary, his queen, and partner of the throne, who died seven years before him, was a woman distinguished for her virtues.

**16.** The Bank of England was founded during William's reign; and the national debt had its origin about the same time, occasioned by borrowing money to meet the great expense of foreign wars.

**17.** The material progress of the country during the seventeenth century was considerable, and the condition of the lower classes was improved. This was particularly true after the period of the Commonwealth. A distinguished English merchant, who was also chairman of the East-India Company, wrote, near the close of that century, "that in 1688 there were on the 'Change more men worth ten thousand pounds than there were in 1650 worth a thousand; that gentlewomen, in those earlier times, thought themselves

well clothed in a serge gown which a chambermaid would, in 1688, be ashamed to be seen in ; and that, besides the great increase of rich clothes, plate, jewels, and household furniture, coaches were in that time augmented a hundred-fold."

Trade and commerce flourished, especially with the East and with the American Colonies. The cotton manufacture was commenced at Manchester ; and many French Huguenots, driven from France, came into England, and set up their business of silk-weaving. Roads and turnpikes were improved, stage-coaches introduced ; and the mail was carried in bags on horseback, the first post-office being established in 1635. Tea, coffee, tobacco, and spices were introduced ; also calico from Calicut in India.

In 1670 the Duke of Buckingham introduced into England the manufacture of plate glass and crystal by importing workmen from Venice.

A few newspapers were irregularly published during the middle and latter part of the century ; but they were frequently interfered with by the rigid censorship of the press.

Many Dutch painters of distinction were in England during this period, and the fine arts received considerable attention. At the close of the century the population of England was somewhat more than seven millions, and that of London was more than half a million. Its streets, as described by the writers of the time, were narrow, unpaved, and dirty, with no lights except the lantern or torch of the nightly traveller.

**18.** On the death of William the crown devolved upon **Anne** (1702), the second daughter of James II., who was married to George, Prince of Denmark. In the first year of this reign, Great Britain, Germany, and Holland, in alliance with each other, declared war against France, called the war of the Spanish succession. The Duke of Marlborough, one of the greatest commanders of modern times, was appointed generalissimo of the allied army ; and the imperial general was the celebrated Prince Eugene. In this great contest the allies had greatly the advantage, effectually checked the ambition and encroachments of

**Queen Anne.**

**War of  
Spanish  
succession.**

Louis XIV., and gained the splendid victories of Blenheim (1704), Ramillies (1706), Oudenarde (1708), and Malplaquet (1709). Gibraltar was captured by Admiral Rooke in 1704, and has ever since remained in the possession of the English. The war was terminated by the Peace of Utrecht in 1713.

**19.** An important event of this reign was the constitutional union between England and Scotland (1706), which put an end to the contests which had harassed both countries, and included them under one common title of Great Britain. Scotland was immediately represented in Parliament by sixteen peers in the House of Lords, and forty-five members in the House of Commons. This union proved especially beneficial to Scotland, being followed by a rapid development of her business-interests, and by a healthful improvement in the condition of the people and society.

**20.** Queen Anne was respected for her virtues, and she has been honored by the appellation of "Good Queen Anne;" though, according to Lord Mahon, "she was a very weak woman, always blindly guided by some female favorite." Her principal advisers were the Duchess of Marlborough and her husband,—the duke above mentioned. The duke was not only an able commander, but a successful diplomatist, and one of the most accomplished gentlemen of his age; but at heart he was treacherous, mean, and exceedingly avaricious. After a brilliant career he and the duchess lost favor with the queen, and retired to the Netherlands.

Anne's reign was distinguished not only for military achievements, but also for eminent attainments in philosophy and literature, and is sometimes styled the Augustan age of England, during which many distinguished writers flourished, including Addison, Swift, Pope, Steele, and Bolingbroke.

The queen died suddenly, in August, 1714. She had eighteen children, all of whom died young, one only reaching the age of eleven years.

21. The party names of Whigs and Tories, which are sometimes used to designate parties in England, first became common in the reign of Charles II. The Whigs were advocates for the rights of the people: the Tories **Party names.** favored those of the crown. The accession of William and Mary was advocated chiefly by the Whigs. During the reign of Anne, parties ran high: the nation was thrown into a ferment by the preaching of Dr. Sacheverell, who inculcated the Tory principle of passive obedience; and towards the close of the reign the Tories supplanted the Whigs in the queen's favor, and came into power.

22. The sovereigns of the Stuart family were not friends of popular liberty. While they had not that vindictiveness towards opponents and offenders so often **The Stuart family.** exhibited by the Tudors, they were firm believers in the divine right of kings. In their judgment, laws were for subjects, and not for sovereigns; and their "high prerogative" seemed to them a sufficient justification for whatever policy was dictated by their pleasure, interest, or caprice. It was their misfortune, perhaps, to live in an age when parliaments had come to manifest considerable boldness and independence, and when the people were noticeably clamoring for freedom of opinion and popular rights. Hence factions and convulsions were the rule rather than the exception. Some of this family had the welfare of the people at heart, and contributed in no small measure to the general prosperity of the realm; but they lacked that sympathy with the people, and that instinct for progress, necessary for their position. The age of the Stuarts was one in which the opportunity of kings was imperfectly understood, and sinfully abused and neglected.

# SYNOPSIS FOR REVIEW.

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### THE TUDOR AND THE STUART FAMILIES.

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**Henry VII.** His title. Character of the Tudors. Pretenders. Henry's character. Useful reign. Feudal system. Spirit of adventure. Revival of learning. Origin of the Stuarts.

**Henry VIII.** Prospects and disappointment. Henry's real character. Foreign wars. Flodden. Defender of the Faith. Matrimonial troubles. Quarrel with the Papacy. Henry in history.

**Edward VI.** His character and reign. Lady Jane Grey.

**Mary.** Her early life; marriage; religion; character; policy. Loss of Calais. Mary's death.

**Elizabeth.** Offers of marriage. Character of her reign. Mary, Queen of Scots; her career. Spanish Armada. Eminent statesmen. Earl of Essex. Elizabeth's last days. Her character, public and private.

**Mode of Life, and State of Society.** Houses; furniture; dress; useful articles; vegetables; fruits; flowers. The peasantry. Education. Commerce and exploration.

#### II. — The Stuart Family.

**James I.** Character of the Stuarts. A conspiracy; gunpowder plot. Bad associates. American Colonies. The Puritans. The English Bible. Harvey. Character of James. Spirit of liberty.

**Charles I.** State of the kingdom. Arbitrary measures of the king. Ship-money. John Hampden. Petition of Rights. Strafford and Laud; opposition to Episcopacy. The King and Parliament. Bold measures; civil war and its parties; leaders and battles. Charles arraigned; his death; character and ability; his views of liberty. His opponents.



### III. — The Commonwealth.

**Cromwell.** Change of government. The army in power. The Rump. Dunbar and Worcester. Charles II. a fugitive. War with Holland. Cromwell and Long Parliament. The Protector. Little Parliament. Cromwell's administration; abilities and career; his place in history; private character. Richard Cromwell.

#### **The Restoration.**

### IV. — The Stuarts Restored.

**Charles II.** His accession. Public sentiment. Charles's prodigality. Dissatisfaction. Duke of York. Habeas Corpus. Plots. Character of court and nation. Distinguished men. Learned societies.

**James II.** His character. Monmouth and Jeffries.

#### **The Revolution of 1688.**

**William III. and Mary.** The navy. Principles established. Passive obedience. Opposition to William III. His character. The Bank of England.

Progress of the century. Increase of wealth; trade and commerce; glass; newspapers; art; population. London.

**Anne.** Her character. Marlborough. Anne's reign. Party names. The Stuarts.

# CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

OF ENGLISH AND LEADING CONTEMPORANEOUS SOVEREIGNS AND  
IMPORTANT EVENTS.

Houses of Tudor and Stuart, 1485-1714.

- 
- A.D.  
1400. 85. **Henry VII.** — **Charles VIII.**, France, 83-98.  
**Louis XII.**, France. **Frederick III.**, Germany, 93. **Pope Alexander VI.**, 92. **Ferdinand and Isabella**, Spain, 74. Map of the world published at Nuremberg, 90. America discovered, 92. Diet at Worms, 95.
1500. 9. **Henry VIII.** — **Francis I.**, France, 15. **Charles V.**, Germany, 19-56. **Popes**, — **Leo X.**, 21; **Clement VII.**; **Paul III.** **Gustavus Vasa**, Sweden, 28. St. Peter's Church begun, 13. Council of Trent, 45. Albert Durer. Loyola. Michael Angelo. Raphael. Cortez.
47. **Edward VI.** — **Henry II.**, France, husband of **Catherine de Medici**, 47-59. Orange-trees brought to Europe.
53. **Mary.** — **Philip II.**, Spain, 55-98. **Pope Paul IV.**
58. **Elizabeth.** — **Francis II.**, France, husband of **Mary, Queen of Scots**, 59. **Charles IX.** **Henry IV.** **Popes Pius V.**, **Gregory XIII.**, **Clement VIII.** **James VI.**, Scotland, 67. Only two carriages in Paris. Republic of Holland, 79. Kepler. Decimals invented, 2.

- A.D.  
1600. 3. James I. — Louis XIII., France, 10-43. Pope Paul V. Virginia settled, 7. New York, 14. Plymouth, 20. Maine, New Hampshire, 23. Logarithms, telescopes, and thermometers invented.
25. Charles I. — Ferdinand II., Germany, 19-37. Pope Urban VII. Salem, Boston, and Rhode Island settled. Harvard College founded, 38. Condé. Turenne.
49. The Commonwealth. — Louis XIV., France, 1643-1715. Leopold I., Germany. Pope Alexander VII. Air-pump invented. 400,000 people died of the plague at Naples in six months. Fénelon.
60. Charles II. — Louis XIV. Pope Innocent XI. Bombay taken by the English. Steam-engine invented, 63. Bees introduced into New England, 70. Mississippi discovered, 73. King Philip's war, 75. Great comet. William Penn.
85. James II. — Louis XIV. Suppression of New-England charters.
89. William and Mary. — Louis XIV. Pope Innocent XII. Charles XII., Sweden. Peter the Great, Russia. Salem witchcraft. Yale College founded (1700). Poland dismembered, 2.
1700. 2. Anne. — Louis XIV. Pope Clement XI. St. Petersburg built, 3. St. Paul's rebuilt, 10. Ruins of Herculaneum discovered, 11.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK (PART I.).

1714 to 1837, — 123 years.

George I.  
George II.

George III.  
George IV.

William IV.

**O**N the death of Queen Anne (1714), **George I.**, Elector of Hanover, succeeded to the crown, in the fifty-fifth year of his age. He was the son of the Duke of Brunswick, Elector of Hanover, and, on his mother's side, was the great-grandson of James I. of England. Before he ascended the throne he had acquired some reputation as a politician and a general. He was plain in his manners, and not of elevated character or taste ; but he was a man of great application to business, and his reign was pacific and prosperous. Some faults in his government were attributed to a venal ministry ; and he was esteemed to the end of his life, in his views and conduct, much more the Elector of Hanover than the King of England. Sir Robert Walpole was George's principal adviser, and was one of the most eminent statesmen of his time.

2. The two parties, which had long divided the kingdom, now, for a time, changed their titles : the Whigs being styled Hanoverians ; and the Tories, Jacobites. The former, being strenuous advocates for the accession of George, received, in return, from him favor and support, and were restored to power. This circumstance alienated and enraged the Tories to such a degree, that many of them took part with the Pretender, son of James II., who was proclaimed

The Pre-  
tender.

king in Scotland, and made an effort to obtain the crown ; but the rebellion was suppressed, and the leaders executed.

3. A pacific reign like that of George I. furnishes few events of importance in history. One, however, of disastrous consequences, occurred, commonly called the "South-sea Bubble," — a wild scheme of speculation by the **South-sea Bubble.** South Company, who had the exclusive right to trade with the Spanish Colonies in America, and who bought up the government annuities, paying for them in its own stock. In this way it promised to pay off the national debt, and to loan the government money at a low rate of interest. It was a base imposture, giving a great shock to public credit, and involving thousands in ruin.

4. The Septennial Act made the length of a parliament seven years, instead of three as before. One object **Septennial Act.** of this change was to avoid the excitement of frequent elections, and changes of parliament.

5. During this reign Daniel Defoe wrote "Robinson Crusoe," Dean Swift gave to the world his "Gulliver's Travels," Watts composed many of his sacred lyrics, **Literary celebrities.** and Thomson published the first part of his poem called "The Seasons."

King George died of apoplexy, in Germany, in 1727, leaving one son, who became his successor.

6. **George II.**, who succeeded his father (1727) in the forty-fourth year of his age, was an able general of great personal courage, but was too fond of war, and delighted in military parade. The most prominent **Walpole.** person in the administration in the former part of the reign (as in the previous reign also) was Sir Robert Walpole, a man whose policy was pacific, and who was distinguished for his talents, and not less so for the system of corruption and venality which he practised while in office.

7. The military operations of this reign were extensive and numerous ; and the British arms were, for the most part, tri-

umphant. Charles VI., Emperor of Germany, who died in 1740, was succeeded in his dominions by his daughter, the celebrated

**The Aus-** Maria Theresa (*Te-ré-zah*), who was married to  
**trian suc-** Francis of Lorraine. But Charles, the Elector of  
**cession.** Bavaria, asserted his claim to the throne, and, by

the aid of Louis XV., was elected emperor. This gave rise to a war, which involved the principal states of Europe, called the war of the Austrian succession, during which the allies under George II. defeated the French in the battle of Dettingen (1743), and the French under Marshal Saxe routed the allies at Fontenoy (1745). Great Britain was the principal support of Maria Theresa; and by the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle (*Akes-lah-cha-pel*) in 1748 her claim to the throne was confirmed.

8. While George II. was absent on the Continent at the head of the British army, Charles Edward, the young Pretender, assisted by Louis XV. of France, made an effort to  
**Cullóden.** recover the throne of his ancestors. Having landed in Scotland, he put himself at the head of an army, and defeated the royal forces in the battles of Preston-Pans and Falkirk, but was afterwards entirely defeated by the Duke of Cumberland in the decisive battle of Culloden (1746). This was the last battle that has been fought on the soil of Great Britain; and it terminated the last effort of the Stuart family to re-ascend the throne, which had been forfeited by the most egregious folly and the most flagitious attempts.

9. In the latter part of this reign the war between Great Britain and France, called the "Seven-Years' War," was renewed, in which their American Colonies also took  
**Seven-** part. In an expedition by the English and Ameri-  
**Years' War.** cans against the French at Fort Duquesne (*Du-  
**Wash-** *káne*), now Pittsburg, Penn., George Washington,  
**ington.** then a young officer in the Virginia militia, distinguished himself in conducting the retreat of the forces after their commander, Gen. Braddock, had been slain. In the course of a*

few years the English took Duquesne, Louisburg (on the Island of Cape Breton), Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Niagara ; and finally, under the command of Gen. Wolfe, they gained possession (1759) of the city of Quebec. These successes were followed by the surrender of all Canada, on the part of the French, to the English, in 1763.

10. Extensive conquests in India were made by the English during this period. In the time of Elizabeth a company was chartered for trade in the East Indies ; and by subsequent renewals of its charter, and acts of Parliament, its business and operation became very extensive under the name of the "East-India Company." Its principal factories or trading-posts were at Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta. The French had similar stations in India, and were making vigorous efforts to monopolize the trade and control of the country.

11. In 1751, Robert Clive, a former clerk of the East-India Company, with a few soldiers, and by the aid of some of the friendly native princes, made a sudden attack upon the French and their allies, and completely routed them, and secured to the British the country along the east coast called the Carnatic. A few years later, Clive, with three thousand men, met and defeated Surajah Dowlah, the Nabob of Bengal, with an army of sixty thousand men, and added that rich and populous province to British India.

12. During the reign of George II. Great Britain made great progress in wealth and general improvement. The national debt, however, was more than doubled during the reign ; and at the end of the Seven-Years' War, in 1763, it amounted to nearly a hundred and thirty-nine million pounds. This debt was commenced during the reign of William and Mary, and at the end of the reign of George III. it amounted to upwards of eight hundred million pounds.

13. George's temper was violent, his talents respectable, though little cultivated by education, and his internal administration generally equitable and popular ; but his private

character was licentious, and the morals of the court during George's his reign were very corrupt. His partialities in character. favor of his continental dominions are represented as still stronger than those of his father, and he has been censured for involving Great Britain in expensive wars on account of the interests of the electorate of Hanover. He died suddenly in 1760 at the age of seventy-seven, after a reign of thirty-three years.

The distinguished musical composer Handel, a native of Germany, though long a resident in England, died Handel. in London in 1759.

**14. George III.**, grandson and successor of George II., was the first king of the house of Brunswick that was born in State of the England. He commenced his reign (1760) at an country. auspicious period, when the arms of Great Britain were triumphant, and the administration able and popular. The war with France was, not long afterwards, brought to a close ; and, by the Peace of Paris, Canada, and other territories in North America, were confirmed to England.

**15. William Pitt** (afterwards Lord Chatham) was at the head of the administration during the last years of the preceding William reign ; and in the former part of this he was the Pitt. most prominent public man in the nation. At this period oppressive measures were adopted by the British Government with regard to the American Colonies. These Oppression of American Colonies. Chatham opposed with his powerful eloquence ; but they were persisted in by the king and Parliament. The Colonies were taxed, but had no representation in Parliament ; and a law called the "Stamp Act," requiring a stamp, purchased of the government, to be affixed to every legal document in the Colonies, was passed by Parliament in 1765. The British Government found great difficulty in enforcing this act, and other measures obnoxious to the Americans were stoutly resisted by them.

**16.** In 1775 hostilities commenced, and a very stubborn spirit



of resistance was everywhere manifested by the Colonies. In the following year a declaration of the independence of the United States was made ; and, after a war of seven years, their independence was finally acknowledged by Great Britain by a treaty signed at Paris in September, 1783.

The American Revolution.

17. The East-India Company had now become a powerful political organization for English supremacy in the East ; and by its vast acquisitions of territory were made, and great injustice and robbery were practised upon the natives. Warren Hastings, Governor-General of British India, was impeached for misdemeanors ; but he was finally acquitted after one of the most famous trials on record, occupying altogether a hundred and forty-eight days, though not completed until seven years from its commencement.

Warren Hastings.

18. In the latter part of the century there was much discontent in Ireland, occasioned principally by a party who wished to sever their connection with England. An insurrection occurred, in which two hundred and fifty thousand people took part ; but it was soon suppressed, and in 1800 Great Britain and Ireland were united under one Parliament, and took the name of "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland."

Union of England and Ireland.

19. In 1789 the French Revolution broke out, convulsing all Europe, and it was thought to threaten the overthrow of all established government. The government of Great Britain, alarmed respecting its own safety, embarked zealously in the European war with a view to check the dissemination of democratic principles both at home and abroad. The system of operations was devised and managed under the direction of William Pitt, the son of Lord Chatham, who was now at the head of the administration. This calamitous war continued to convulse the Continent for a quarter of a century ; and, during a part of the time, Great Britain alone had all Europe arrayed against her. But, after various alternations of failure

General European war.

and success, she came off victorious, yet not without an immense loss of the blood of her subjects, and a vast increase of her national debt. Some of the principal victories which the British obtained during this war were those of the Nile and of Trafalgar by Nelson, and those of Talavera, Salamanca, Vittoria, and Waterloo (June 18, 1815), by Wellington.

20. The battle of Waterloo was one of the most important in its consequences in modern times. It put an end to the ambitious career of Napoleon, who had been a disturbing element in European affairs for many years, gave to England the first position among the great powers of Europe, and inaugurated a better policy for the progress of civilization.

**Waterloo  
and Napo-  
leon.**

21. In 1812 the United States declared war against Great Britain. English men-of-war had repeatedly searched American ships, and impressed English sailors found thereon. The United States denied the right of British authorities to make such search, and hostilities ensued. The war was carried on principally upon the water, where many naval actions took place. A few engagements upon land occurred along the Canadian frontier and in the vicinity of Chesapeake Bay; and at New Orleans, Jan. 8, 1815, the last battle was fought, in which the Americans, under Gen. Andrew Jackson, gained a decisive victory over the British. A treaty of peace was signed at Ghent Dec. 24, 1814, before the battle of New Orleans, although at that time no news of such a treaty had reached America. In that treaty no mention was made of the question of the right of search, which had occasioned the war.

**War with  
the United  
States.**

22. The reign of George III., who died in 1820, was longer than that of any other English monarch; and it forms a distinguished period in the history of the kingdom, on account of its military events, and the progress of the nation in commerce, wealth, and the arts. During the last ten years of his life he was afflicted with insanity to

**Character of  
George III.'s  
reign.**

such a degree as entirely disqualified him for all business, and the Prince of Wales acted as regent. His talents were not brilliant, nor were his views as a statesman enlarged ; but his private character was exemplary, and he was much respected by his subjects.

23. A large number of distinguished persons lived during this reign. There were the eminent statesmen Burke, Fox, Sheridan, the elder and the younger Pitt, Curran, **Celebrated persons.** and Grattan ; the distinguished commanders Nelson and Wellington ; and, in the literary world, Goldsmith, Burns, Byron, Scott, Cowper, Coleridge, Gray, Gibbon, Hume, and others.

24. During the period of a hundred and twenty years, between the beginning of the eighteenth century and the close of the reign of George III. (in 1820), very considerable progress was made by the government and people **Progress made.** of Great Britain. Gradually the power of the sovereign had come to be administered through his counsellors or ministry, rather than by himself personally. Trade and commerce were extended in all directions, and the importation of foreign commodities added much to the wealth of the nation and to the comforts of the people.

25. In manufactures great advance was made in earthenware and porcelain, cutlery and hardware, and the various other articles of iron and steel ; and the invention of the spinning-jenny and other machinery, and the use of steam, gave an impulse to the production of silk, **Manufactures and agriculture.** woollen, and cotton fabrics. The first passenger steamboat in Great Britain, called "The Comet," made its appearance upon the Clyde in 1812. Agriculture received more attention, and was improved ; the potato was introduced and cultivated ; and tea, coffee, rice, and tobacco became articles of large importation.

26. The introduction of many articles from China, Japan, and India, the use of mahogany and other ornamental woods,

and the improved quality of some kinds of household furniture, such as chairs, tables, bedsteads, and cabinets, gave **Articles of** to the dwellings of all classes a better furnishing **comfort.** and adornment. Carpets were manufactured and used, to some extent, during the last half of the century.

**27.** The fine arts were not neglected. The Royal Academy of Art was founded in 1768; and the names of **Fine arts.** Kneller, West, Hogarth, and Reynolds, the founder of the English school of painting, are classic names in art. Much progress was also made in music in its various **Music.** departments, and especially in sacred music. Many of the productions of that period are still in use. The oratorio was first brought out in London by Handel in 1720.

**28.** The state of society can hardly be spoken of in terms of praise. The principles of religion and morals had but little **State of** influence upon the people. The men were much **society.** given to dissipation and gambling; and the women, generally very ignorant, were addicted to frivolity and gossip. The principal amusements of the different classes were hunting, fishing, music, dancing, dice, cards, puppet-shows, football, fairs, and the frequenting of watering-places. The man of fashion is described as dressed in a cocked hat, powdered wig, and gold-laced scarlet coat; while the lady, with powdered hair, was attired in flowered brocades and immense hoops.

**29.** But there was an improvement in society during the latter part of this period. The education and the morals of the **Education** better classes received more attention. Literary **and morals.** clubs were formed; periodical literature became quite common; bitterness of feeling towards the Catholics was lessened; and Sunday schools were established by Robert Raikes in 1781. It was during this period, also, that Methodism had its origin by the preaching of Wesley and Whitefield.

**30.** **George IV.**, who succeeded his father in 1820, was a man of talents and accomplishments: but his life, during both his youth and his manhood, had been marked by great prodi-

gality and dissipation ; and there was little in his character or his conduct, while a sovereign, to entitle him to **Character of George IV.** the affection or respect of his subjects. While a prince, and not in power, he connected himself with the opposition, or Whigs ; but, both as regent and king, he adhered to the Tories, to the neglect of his former friends.

31. Soon after the accession of George IV. a bill for divorcing and degrading the queen, Caroline, on charges **Queen Caroline.** of misconduct, was introduced into the House of Lords, and, after being carried by a vote of a hundred and eight to ninety-nine, was abandoned ; and the queen soon after died.

32. The Greeks having for some years maintained a sanguinary struggle for independence against the Turks, an interposition in their favor was made by England, France, **Greek affairs.** and Russia ; and the united fleets of these three powers obtained, in 1827, a great victory over the Turkish and Egyptian fleets in the Bay of Navarino (see map, p. 115).

33. In 1828 the Corporation and Test Act, which had long operated to exclude Catholics and Dissenters from all corporate offices, was repealed ; and it was followed (in 1829) **Relief of Catholics.** by the still more important measure of Catholic emancipation. By this act the laws imposing civil disabilities on Roman Catholics were repealed ; and Daniel O'Connell, the Irish agitator, took his seat in the House of Commons. In addition to these great national measures many other important alterations and improvements were made in the laws of Great Britain during the reign of George IV. The penal code was improved by rendering punishment more certain, and much less sanguinary.

34. George IV. was succeeded (in 1830) by his brother, the Duke of Clarence, with the title of **William IV.** In about a month after his accession a revolution took place **William IV. and reform.** in France, which caused the dethronement of Charles X. A wide-spread feeling of uneasiness and disaffec-

tion was felt in England, and the country was alarmed by numerous incendiary fires. For many years the subject of a reform of the representation of the people in the House of Commons had been much agitated, and it was now more loudly called for than ever before. On the meeting of the new Parliament, the Duke of Wellington, the prime-minister, unexpectedly expressed himself strongly against any reform; but the duke and his colleagues, not finding themselves supported by a majority of the House of Commons, resigned, and were succeeded by a Whig ministry, with Earl Grey at the head.

35. On the 1st of March, 1831, Lord John Russell, as the **Reforms secured.** organ of the cabinet, brought into Parliament the first reform bill; but this bill, and also a second one, the ministry failed to carry through both Houses. But a third bill was, after a violent struggle, carried, and enacted into a law, in June, 1832. This important measure, which renders the House of Commons a body much more effectually representing the people, occupied the greater part of the first two years of the reign of William, to the exclusion of almost all other measures. The first Parliament elected under the new system assembled in January, 1833; and the reform of the representation was soon followed by the reform of the Irish Church, and the abolition of slavery in the British West Indies. William Wilberforce was the foremost champion of this last-named measure, by which eight hundred thousand slaves were set free, and twenty million pounds were paid to their owners as compensation. A reform in the poor-laws was also brought about, and the charter of the East-India Company was renewed with important modifications.

36. William IV. had been a sailor in his youth, and had the **Character of William IV.** free and easy manners of that class. He was a hearty friend of reform, ruled with justice, and was beloved by his people. His death occurred, at the age of seventy-two, in 1837.

## CHAPTER VI.

### THE HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK (PART II.).

From 1837 to the present time.

Victoria.

**V**ICTORIA, who came to the throne in 1837 at the age of eighteen years, was the daughter of the Duke of Kent, and a niece of the late king, William IV. She had Auspicious beginning. been carefully educated, was of pleasing manners, and of great amiability, and firmness of character. Her accession was the occasion of much rejoicing among her people, and gave promise of an auspicious reign ; which subsequent events have fulfilled. In 1840 she married her cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

2. The little kingdom of Hanover in Germany, since the time of George I., had been an appendage to England, and was under the same sovereign, though with an independent administration ; but, as the law of succession in Hanover does not allow females to occupy Union with Hanover dissolved. the throne, the union with Great Britain was dissolved upon the accession of Victoria, and this state became once more independent.

3. The youthful queen did not find her kingdom entirely peaceful and harmonious. In some of the colonies there was much dissatisfaction with the government ; and at Sources of discontent. home great discontent prevailed among the laboring classes on account of low wages, want of employment, and the high price of provisions. In the manufacturing districts

strikes were common among the operatives, and at one time fifty thousand people in Scotland were out of employment on that account ; but the arrest of some of the ringleaders, who were intimidating new laborers, soon restored quiet and a renewal of business.

4. In 1838 a class of agitators for reform, called "Chartists," began to occupy a large share of public attention. In a document called by them the people's charter their principles were set forth under six heads : 1. Universal suffrage ; 2. Vote by ballot ; 3. Paid representatives in Parliament ; 4. Equal electoral districts ; 5. The abolition of the property qualification ; and, 6. Annual parliaments. These subjects were widely discussed at mass meetings numerous attended ; and in 1839 the charter, signed by a large number of people, was presented to Parliament. Its refusal by that body led to some scenes of riot and violence ; but the government soon restored order.

5. Chartism was apparently thrust aside for several years by the Anti-Corn-Law League, — an organization formed in 1838 for the repeal of all duties on breadstuffs. Richard Cobden and John Bright, two of England's ablest statesmen, were zealous advocates for this measure ; and after much agitation the repeal was passed in 1846, and carried fully into effect in 1849. The navigation laws passed in the time of Cromwell, and which were now considered a restriction upon trade, were repealed the same year.

6. Upon the occurrence of a revolution in France in 1848, chartism was revived for a time in Great Britain, and many threatening demonstrations were made throughout the country. These were successfully quelled by the government ; and, after the presentation in Parliament of a monster petition in favor of the people's charter, the movement seemed to lose its organization, and soon passed from public notice.

7. In 1841, under the leadership of Daniel O'Connell, the sub-



ject of a repeal of the union between Ireland and Great Britain was extensively agitated. Mass meetings were held throughout Ireland, inflammatory speeches were made, and great excitement prevailed. The government finally took measures to prevent the riotous assembling of the people. O'Connell and some of his followers were tried, and convicted of conspiracy and sedition; but, the judgment being reversed by the House of Lords, they were subsequently quelled by the authorities; and the leaders were transported for life, some of whom afterwards escaped to the United States.

**Separation  
of Ireland  
attempted.**

8. One of the most beneficent influences upon social and domestic life at this time was the result of an extensive temperance reformation, which began in Ireland in 1841 under the direction of Father Mathew, an Irish priest. Its effect in relieving poverty and diminishing crime was most salutary. Numerous temperance societies named from Father Mathew were organized, and the movement extended to other countries.

**Temperance  
reform.**

9. In 1843 more than a third of all the ministers of the Established Church of Scotland seceded, in order to free themselves from the interference of the civil courts in ecclesiastical matters. This movement caused much excitement, and resulted in the formation of what has since been known as the Free Church of Scotland.

**Scottish Free  
Church.**

10. Ireland experienced one of the most terrible famines in modern times in consequence of the failure of the potato-crop in that country in 1846-47. Most shocking scenes of suffering and death by starvation were witnessed on all sides. The government generously ministered to the relief of the suffering; and a national vessel was sent from the United States, laden with supplies purchased by private contribution.

**Famine in  
Ireland.**

11. A most notable event occurred in London in 1851, known as "The World's Fair," or exhibition of the industry of all nations. It took place in a mammoth building called "The

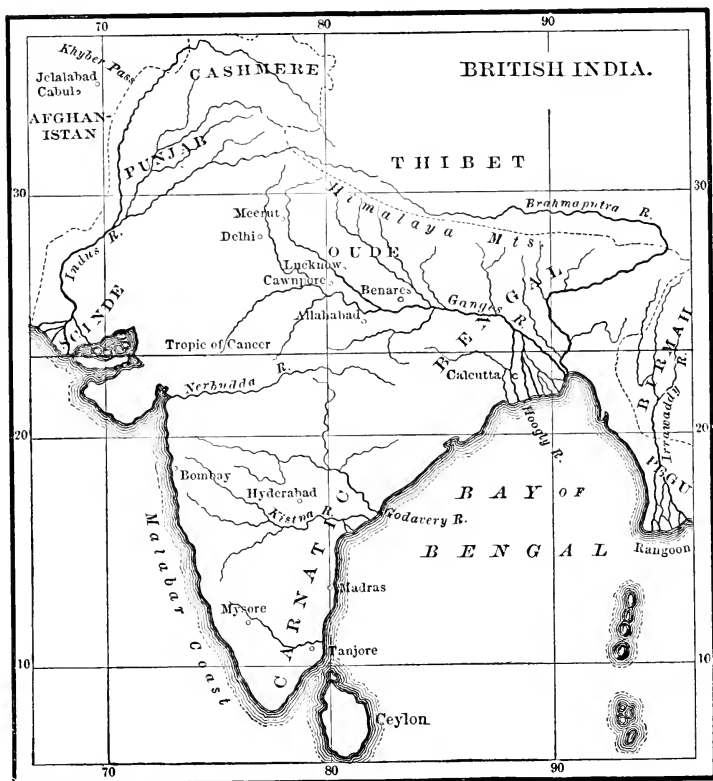
Crystal Palace," constructed mostly of iron and glass, and was participated in by nations in all parts of the globe. World's fair. This project originated with the prince-consort ; and its influence upon the social and industrial interests of the world was so apparent, that it has since been imitated, with some improvements, by several countries.

**12.** Prince Albert, the husband of the queen, died in December, 1861, much lamented. He was a man of refined tastes, a friend of progress, and a benefactor to the poor and to all charitable institutions. To the queen he was a wise and judicious counsellor, and was greatly beloved by the people.

**13.** Several wars have taken place in the British Colonies and with foreign nations during the reign of the present sovereign, and there have also been some important changes and events in colonial administration. Canadian rebellion. Upper and Lower Canada had for some time been in a disturbed state ; and in 1837 an insurrection broke out, which was put down after great alarm and some bloodshed. In 1840 the two provinces were united under a constitutional government.

**14.** The Afghan war was between 1838 and 1842. England undertook to support the Afghans against Persia, and finally to place on their throne a prince of a former reigning house, to maintain whose authority a small English force was left in Cabul. Violent opposition to the new rule sprang up. These troops, seeing their danger, attempted to cut their way to Jelalabad, and were nearly destroyed. A fresh English force, in turn, destroyed Cabul ; but Afghanistan was abandoned. During this war, Scinde, a rich territory around the lower waters of the Indus, was annexed to British India by Sir Charles Napier. The Sikhs, living in the district called the Punjab, north of Scinde, invaded the British territories in 1845 ; and a war followed, which ended in the annexation of their country also to the British domain. These conquests secured to British India the whole peninsula of Hin-

dostan. In 1852 a war with Birmah resulted in the acquisition of Puge; and in 1856 the kingdom of Oude, long under British protection, was formally annexed, on the ground of extreme misgovernment.



MAP OF INDIA.

**15.** The English army in India is largely composed of sepoys, or native soldiers. Early in 1857 there were signs of a mutinous spirit in the Bengal division, which was by far the largest, and contained many high-caste sepoys. The government had resolved to arm the troops with Enfield

Sepoy  
rebellion.

rifles, in the use of which greased cartridges were employed. A belief spread among the native troops that this was an attempt to make them give up their religion by compelling them to bite the fat of swine and cows: the use of the former being defilement to the Mohammedan; and of the latter, sacrilege to the Hindoo. Although the old cartridges were still used, the greatest excitement prevailed, and the discontent spread like wildfire.

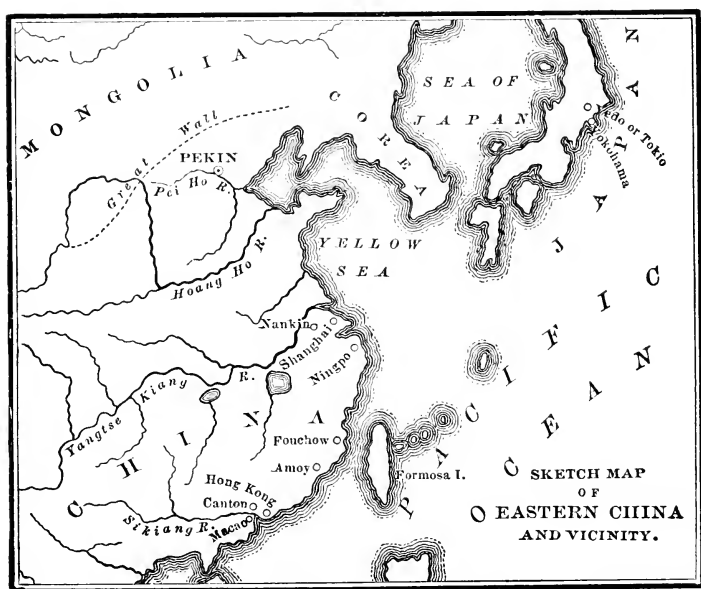
**16.** The first outbreaks were quelled; but in May several regiments mutinied at Meerut, killed their English officers, and marched to Delhi, where the garrison joined them. The Europeans were massacred, and Delhi became the rallying-point of the rebellion. Several thousand sepoy also revolted at Cawnpore, and placed themselves under the Nana-Sahib. Few native regiments could be trusted; and the European troops were too few to check the mutiny, which now spread with frightful rapidity. The scenes at Delhi were repeated at Benares, Allahabad, Futtehpoor, and all over Oude, where many Bengal sepoy had been recruited. The rebels gradually gathered around Lucknow, and began to besiege the Europeans there about July 1.

**17.** The first movements of the English were against Delhi. The memorable siege of this city lasted from June till September, and it was taken only after the most desperate fighting within as well as without the walls. Meantime Gen. Havelock moved with a small force from Allahabad towards Cawnpore, where a few English were besieged by the Nana-Sahib, who, on the approach of Havelock, murdered them all with horrible atrocities. He, after defeating the Nana in several battles, marched to relieve Lucknow, where a garrison of less than a thousand was holding out against ten thousand rebels. He fought his way into the city with dreadful loss, and staid with the besieged until November, when Sir Colin Campbell relieved them, and withdrew his troops to Cawnpore, which, after a great battle with the Nana-Sahib, was made a centre of

Delhi,  
Cawnpore,  
and Luck-  
now.

Memorable  
sieges.

operations against Oude. Troops had now arrived from England, and the rebels were followed up with great vigor. Early in 1859 the revolt was at an end. The horrible outrages on men, women, and children, and the relentless punishment of their perpetrators, have no parallel in modern history. One of the most important results of the mutiny was the transfer by Parliament of the government of India from the East-India Company to the British Queen, the company remaining simply a commercial corporation.



MAP OF CHINA.

18. The principal military operations of the British with China, in the present reign, have originated mainly in commercial difficulties. The importation of opium was forbidden by the Chinese Government; but English merchants smuggled the drug over the frontier. Its seizure led to a war, by which China was compelled (1842) to cede Hong

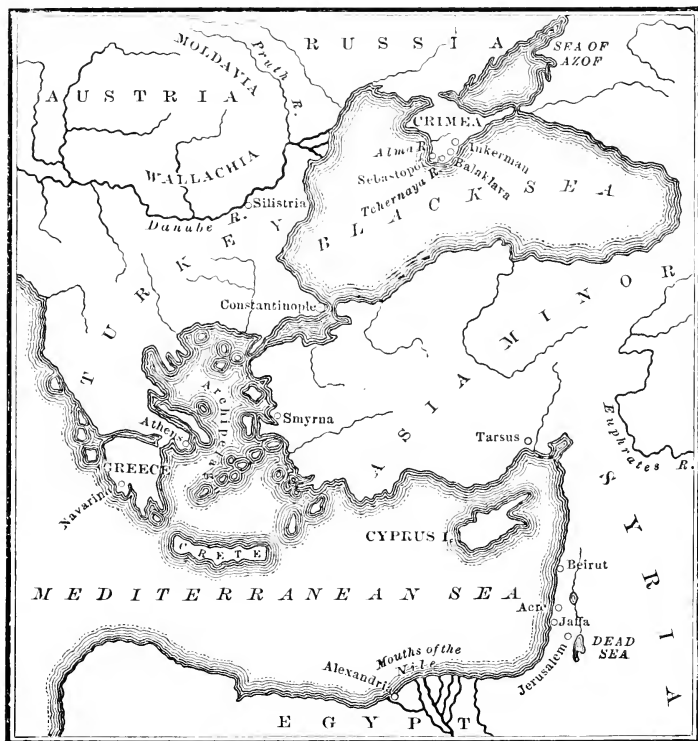
War with  
China.

Kong, and pay twenty-one million dollars to Great Britain, and to open five seaports to British commerce. In 1857 the Chinese were charged with having broken their treaties ; but it was not until the sepoy rebellion in India was quelled, that, some massacres having occurred in Chinese waters, France and England formed an alliance against the aggressors. They captured Canton, and negotiations were begun ; but in 1859 the war was renewed. The allies were at first repulsed on the Pei Ho River ; but the next year the forts and Tien-tsin were taken ; and the Chinese, being defeated near Peking, came to terms, and this inglorious war was ended by a commercial treaty.

**19.** Since the time of Napoleon, a compact has existed among the five great powers of Europe — England, France, Prussia, Russia, and Austria — to preserve what is called the balance of power. **The balance of power.** called the balance of power ; that is, ostensibly to protect the smaller states against the encroachments of the larger ones, and to prevent any one state or sovereign from exercising an undue influence in the affairs of other states. In pursuance of this policy, England has twice, during the present reign, been drawn into collision with the Eastern powers.

**20.** In 1840 Mehemet-Ali (*Mehemet Ah'le*), Pacha or Viceroy of Egypt, revolted against the Turkish Government, and also attempted, with some success, to get possession of Syria. **Rebellion in Egypt.** France remained neutral upon the subject, but was suspected of sympathizing with Mehemet, either for the purpose of placing him upon the Turkish throne, to which Abdul-Medjid had just succeeded at the age of seventeen years, or to lessen Turkish influence by making Egypt and Syria an independent kingdom. The other allies interfered. A fleet, under the command of Sir Charles Napier, soon captured Acre, the key of Syria, and Beyroot, and then made its appearance in the harbor of Alexandria. A treaty soon followed with Mehemet, making the viceroyalty of Egypt hereditary in his family ; since which Egypt has been, in all respects except the name, an independent state.

21. The other interference in the affairs of the Eastern powers was in the Crimean war, which began in 1853. Russia had demanded to be named protector of the Greek Christians in the Turkish Empire. By the advice of England and France, this demand was refused; and the



TO ILLUSTRATE CRIMEAN WAR. GREECE IN 1827, AND THE ALLIED FLEET AT ALEXANDRIA IN 1840.

Czar at once occupied the Danubian principalities where these Christians lived. The Russians, failing to take Silistria, were defeated on the Danube, and withdrew from Turkish territory. Meantime the allied fleets blockaded the Russian fleet in the harbor of Sebastopol, in the Crimea; and the reduction

of this strongly-fortified city became the main purpose of the allies, whom Sardinia now joined. In the course of this siege were fought the battles of the Alma, of Balaklava (where the "six hundred" made their famous charge), of Inkerman, and of the Tchernaya; and furious assaults were made on the Russian works, especially upon the battery of the Malakoff, which was captured by the French, and that of the Redan, upon which an attempt of the English failed. After sustaining a siege of eleven months, Sebastopol was evacuated Sept. 9, 1855; and a treaty of peace was signed in the following year.

22. England undertook some naval operations against Russia in the Baltic Sea, but with very small results. The losses to all parties in this war were immense. The allies **Florence Nightingale.** suffered terribly from disease; and it was by her efforts to improve the hospital service, and relieve the wants of the soldiers in the Crimea, that the name of Florence Nightingale became so memorable. She visited hospital and camp, and, like an angel of mercy, everywhere ministered to the sick, the wounded, and dying; one poor soldier remarking, that, owing to the large numbers in the hospital, all could not be spoken to or receive a recognition by her; "yet," said he, "we could kiss her shadow as it fell, and lay our heads on our pillows content."

23. The discovery of rich gold mines, also of deposits of iron, copper, and coal, in New South Wales and Victoria, in 1850, formed an era in the history of the **Australia.** colonies. Liberal constitutions were granted to them at about the same time, since which they have enjoyed a rapid and prosperous growth. The agricultural and mineral resources of the country have been extensively developed, and a large population now finds occupation and support in this distant portion of the British Empire.

24. Among the public enactments and leading measures of Victoria's reign, there are some which reflect great credit upon the government and the leading statesmen by whom they



were initiated and carried out. In 1840 the penny-postage bill was passed, reducing the rates on letters, which **Penny** had previously been very high, to one penny for **postage.** all distances, and establishing also the money-order system. This measure was at once felt to be a public convenience in business and social life, and a relief from a heavy tax on correspondence.

25. In 1858 an act was passed modifying the oath required of members of Parliament, so as to make Jews **Jewish dis-** eligible to that body. A few years later the elec- **abilities.** tive franchise was greatly extended in Wales, Ire- **Suffrage.** land, and Scotland, thereby giving to the people greater power and influence.

26. By the Irish land bill, the peasants of Ireland can acquire an interest in the soil which they cultivate and in its improvement, and a prospective ownership of the **Irish land** same. This measure has already conferred sub- **bill.** stantial benefit upon the country, having lessened political excitement, checked emigration, improved agriculture, and increased the demand for labor with a greater remuneration.

27. A long-standing source of discontent among the Catholic population of Ireland was the tax which they were compelled to pay for the support of the Established Church of Great Britain. In 1868 Mr. Gladstone introduced a bill into Parliament to disestablish the Irish **Disestablish-** Church, and to make the support of religion among all sects a **ment of the** voluntary matter. This bill met with violent opposition, but **Irish Church.** was passed, and went into operation in 1870. It was an act eminently wise, and does tardy justice to an oppressed people, who for centuries have been compelled to support a church with which they had no sympathy.

28. Another measure of great importance was the education bill of 1870, establishing a system of public schools, **Education** which are fast bringing the elements of an English **bill.** education within reach of every child in England. Extraor-

inary activity has been displayed in the erection of school-houses, the organization of schools, and in aiding the lower classes, so that poverty shall be no bar to a common-school education. Already there is a diminution of that class of crimes common among ignorant people, and educated labor is receiving a better reward.

29. During the late civil war in the United States, American commerce suffered extensively from privateers built and fitted out in English ports. At the close of the war the **Alabama claims.** United-States Government claimed of Great Britain damages for these depredations, on the ground that no efforts were made to prevent the privateers from leaving British ports. These claims were known as the Alabama claims, from the name of one of the privateers. After some negotiations at Washington between the two governments, the matter was referred to a board of arbitration composed of representatives of five different nations; viz., the United States, Great Britain, Italy, Brazil, and Switzerland. This board met at Geneva in 1872, and awarded to the United States the sum of fifteen million dollars, which was promptly paid by the British Government.

30. In 1875 the Prince of Wales made a visit to British India, where he was received with great enthusiasm; and, upon his return, the Queen added to her former title that of Empress of India.

31. The subject of United-States fisheries in British-American waters became a matter of arbitration in 1877, at Halifax in Nova Scotia, before a board called the "Fish Commission," composed of one person appointed by the United States, one by Great Britain, and the Belgian minister at Washington. The question at issue was, whether the advantage accruing to the United States for taking fish in British-American waters was greater or less than the benefits derived by the British-American Colonies by having entry for their fish free of duty in United-States markets. The decision of the arbitrators

was not unanimous ; but a majority adjudged that the United States must pay to Great Britain a balance of values of five million five hundred thousand dollars. Although this award was considered by the United States as excessive, Congress appropriated the money for its payment in June, 1878 ; and it was paid to the British Government in November following.

32. In 1877-78 hostilities existed between Russia and Turkey, originating principally in difficulties concerning the protection of Greek Christians in the European provinces tributary to Turkey. This war was terminated by the Treaty of Berlin, July, 1878 ; but, a few weeks previous to that event, a defensive treaty was secretly made in 1878 between Great Britain and Turkey, by which the former power guarantees a conditional protectorate of certain Turkish provinces in Asia, and is allowed, in return, to occupy and administer the Island of Cyprus, upon the annual payment to Turkey of the present excess of the revenue of the island over its expenditures. English occupation of Cyprus is to terminate, however, in case certain provinces recently acquired by Russia are restored to Turkey. Cyprus.

33. In the autumn of 1878 a Russian envoy arrived at Cabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and was kindly received by the ameer. Soon after, an embassy from British India arrived to inquire the purpose of such a step, and to guard British interests. This embassy was not allowed to enter the country. By order of the home government, armed forces were sent from India ; one division going by the Khyber Pass, who soon took and occupied Jelalabad and some other places. The ameer, Shere Ali, fled from the country, and died soon after, leaving affairs in the hands of his son, Yakoob Khan. This war met with opposition and censure in Parliament, but was defended by the ministry as necessary for the safety of British interests. Afghan war.

34. Various causes combined to produce considerable distress in Great Britain in 1878-79. The manufacturing interests

were much depressed, owing to over-production and the competition of other nations. Numerous failures occurred, and many people were out of employment. There was also a deficiency in some of the crops. In October, 1878, the City of Glasgow Bank failed disastrously on account of fraud by its directors. By this event a large number of persons lost their savings of many years, and their only means of subsistence.

**35.** Many eminent statesmen have participated in public affairs during this reign. Brougham, Palmerston, Russell, Peel, Derby, Gladstone, Disraeli, Cobden, Bright, and others, have contributed largely to the development and welfare of their country.

**36.** During the last half-century the fruits of a ripening civilization have rapidly accumulated in almost every phase of English life. In improved agriculture and manufactures in general, in architecture as seen in the homes of all classes, as well as in public buildings and bridges, in hospitals and asylums for the unfortunate and the poor, in modes of travel, in the use of the telegraph and the printing-press, and in literary institutions and the varied agencies for the diffusion of knowledge, the evidences of a most wonderful progress are everywhere seen; while in the special manufacturing of cotton, woollen, and metallic goods, in the mining of coal, iron, copper, and tin, and in commerce and naval power, Great Britain stands in the front rank of nations.

**37.** More than a thousand years have elapsed since Egbert united the little kingdoms of the heptarchy, and nowhere can the progress of civilization be more profitably studied than in tracing the events of English history from that period to the present. We here see the gradual rise of a people from a low state of barbarism to the highest rank in national power, in the arts both of peace and war, in commercial wealth, and intellectual and moral greatness.

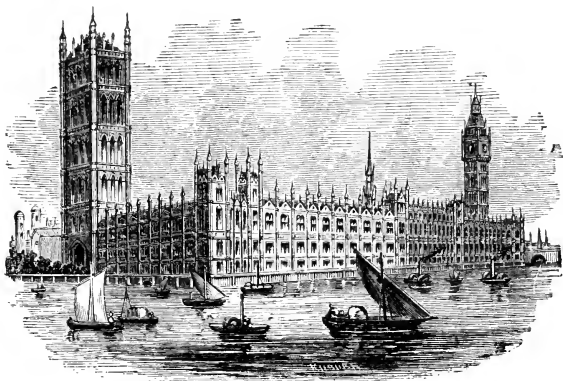
In England liberty has maintained frequent and bloody conflicts with tyranny. No nation can boast of more ardent patriots, of firmer and more enlightened friends to the rights and liberties of mankind, or men of higher excellence, or of greater intellectual endowments, than are presented to us in the eventful pages of English history.

38. To the citizens of the United States the history of England is next in importance to that of their own country; for it is to a majority of them the history of their own ancestors, as it is also of the country from which have been derived in a great measure their language and literature and their civil and religious institutions.

*Its lessons to  
Americans.*

39. The Great Britain of to-day exhibits many of the best characteristics of conservatism and of healthy progress. The extent of her political power, and her judicious policy at home and abroad, equally challenge admiration; and whoever contemplates the vastness of her empire, including her numerous colonial possessions, will recognize truth as well as poetry in the assertion that "on the British Empire the sun never sets."

*Prominence  
of Great  
Britain.*



PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

## THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

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THE government of Great Britain is of that form usually known as a limited monarchy. The sovereign is hereditary; and, when there is no direct male heir, a female may succeed to the throne, and she takes the title of queen-regnant. The wife of a king is called queen-consort; the widow of a king, queen-dowager; and the mother of a sovereign upon the throne, queen-mother.

The power of the sovereign is limited by constitutional restrictions. While the crown can declare war, the action of Parliament is necessary to raise money and men to carry it on. But the sovereign has full power to assemble or to dismiss Parliament, coin money (though not to fix or change its value), to receive and send ambassadors, to grant pardons, to confer titles of nobility, to appoint judges and magistrates, to issue and cancel commissions in the army and navy, to sign or veto acts passed by Parliament, and to nominate bishops, &c.

The power of the sovereign is not exercised personally, but through a ministry composed of leading officials, the most important of whom are the following: The first Lord of the Treasury, called also Premier or Prime-Minister; Chancellor of the Exchequer; Lord Chancellor, President of the Council; Lord Privy-Seal; Home Secretary; Foreign Secretary; Secretary for the Colonies; Secretary of War; Secretary for India, First Lord of the Admiralty; President of the Board of Trade; and President of the Board of Works.

The ministry is responsible for the acts of the government; and hence the saying, that the king can do no wrong. The members of the ministry usually tender their resignations when any of their important measures fail to receive the support of the House of

Commons. When a new ministry is to be formed, the sovereign appoints the premier, and he names his associates. Although the ministry has long been regarded as an important branch of the government in the administration of public affairs, it exists as the result of custom only, never having been created, nor recognized by law; and no official record of its proceedings is kept.

The legislative department of the government is called Parliament, and is composed of two houses, — Lords and Commons.

The House of Lords, or Peers, at present consists of nearly five hundred members, and is composed of English hereditary and titled peers, English archbishops and bishops, and Scotch and Irish peers elected by their own order. Peers, or lords, are often created by the sovereign for distinguished services, or merit.

The House of Commons is elective, its members representing counties, cities, boroughs, and some of the universities. The present number of members is about six hundred and fifty.

All bills for raising money, or which directly affect the people, must originate in the House of Commons.

No Parliament can exist more than seven years; and, whenever its dissolution takes place, a new one must be called within three years.

Many of the colonies and other dependencies of the empire have parliaments of their own for the management of their local affairs.

## THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

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THE Empire of Great Britain is composed of a variety of states and dependencies in various parts of the world, as follows:—

### *IN EUROPE.*

The United Kingdom of **Great Britain and Ireland**, with the adjacent islands, including the Shetlands, Hebrides, Orkneys, Scillies, Man, and the Isle of Wight.

**The Channel Islands**, near the coast of France, comprising Jersey, Guernsey, &c., having been a part of the dominions of William the Conqueror.

**Heligoland**, a small island in the German Ocean, off the mouth of the Elbe River. Obtained from the Danes in 1807.

The town and fortress of **Gibraltar**, on the south extremity of Spain. Captured in 1704.

**Malta**, an island naval station south of Sicily, with Gozo, a small island adjacent (taken from the French in 1800), and **Cyprus**.

### *IN ASIA.*

**British India**, including the peninsula of Hindostan, and several states east of the Bay of Bengal.

The Island of **Ceylon**, south of Hindostan, taken from the Dutch in 1795; **Malacca**, on the Malayan peninsula; and the adjacent Islands of **Singapore** and **Penang** or **Prince of Wales Island**; **Sarawak** a small state on the north side of the Island of Borneo; and **Labuan**, a small island north of Borneo; **Hong Kong**, an island off Canton in China, obtained from the Chinese in 1843; and **Aden**, a commercial and naval station on the Gulf of Aden, in the south-western part of Arabia, obtained from Turkey in 1838



*IN AFRICA.*

**Cape Colony**, obtained from the Dutch in 1806; **Natal**; **Transvaal**; **Sierra Leone**; **Gambia**; and the **Gold-Coast** settlements.

Also the following islands adjacent to Africa, — **Mauritius**, or **Isle of France**, east of Madagascar; the **Seychelles** and **Amirante Islands**, north of Mauritius; **St. Helena** (obtained from the Dutch in 1654) and **Ascension Islands**, in the Atlantic Ocean, south latitude, west of Lower Guinea; **Lagos** and several other small islands and settlements along the coast of Upper Guinea.

*IN AUSTRALIA, &c.*

**Victoria**, **New South Wales**, **Queensland**, **North Australia**, **West Australia**, **Alexandra Land** and **South Australia**, and **Tasmania** and **New-Zealand Islands**.

*IN NORTH AMERICA.*

**The Dominion of Canada**, composed of the following provinces, — **Ontario**, **Quebec**, **New Brunswick**, **Nova Scotia**, **Prince Edward Island**, **Manitoba**, **British Columbia**, including **Vancouver Island** and the **North-west Territories**.

**The Island of Newfoundland**, and the **Bermuda Islands** east of South Carolina.

*IN THE WEST INDIES.*

**Jamaica**, **Trinidad**, **Barbadoes**, **Grenada**, **Antigua**, **St. Lucia**, **Tobago**, **St. Vincent**, **St. Christopher**, **Dominica**, **Montserrat**, **Nevis**, **Barbuda**, **Anguilla**, **Turk's Island**, the **Virgin Islands**, the **Bahamas**, and some other small islands.

*IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA.*

**British Guiana**, **Balize** or **British Honduras**, in **Yucatan**, and the **Falkland Islands**.

**The Norfolk**, **Chatham**, and **Fiji Islands**, and some others in the Pacific Ocean, belong to Great Britain.

The combined area of the British Empire is estimated at more than eight and a half million square miles, and its population at two hundred and fifty million.

# SYNOPSIS FOR REVIEW.

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## CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

OF ENGLISH AND LEADING CONTEMPORANEOUS SOVEREIGNS AND  
IMPORTANT EVENTS.

House of Brunswick. 1714 to the present time.

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- A.D.  
1700. 14. **George I.** — **Louis XV.**, France, 15-74. **Charles VI.**, Germany, father of Maria Theresa. **Popes Clement XI.** and **Benedict XIII.** First post-office in America at New York, 10. New Orleans founded, 17. Great earthquake at Palermo, 26.
27. **George II.** — **Louis XV.**, France. **Pope Benedict XIV.** **Frederick the Great**, Prussia. Baltimore founded, 29. Balloons invented. Vermont and Georgia settled. Washington born, 32. New Style introduced in England, 52. Earthquake at Lisbon, 55. Braddock's defeat; capture of Louisburg and Quebec. Hogarth, Joshua Reynolds, Benjamin West, Wesley, Hume, Newton.
60. **George III.** — **Louis XV.** and **XVI.**, **Napoleon**, of France. **Popes Clement XIV.**, **Pius VI.** and **VII.** **Frederick the Great.** **Frederick William III.**, Prussia, 86. **Alexander I.**, Russia. Wellington. Brown University founded, 64. American Revolution. Sandwich Islands discovered, 78. First census in the United States, 90. French Revolution. First locomotive,

A.D.  
1800.

4. Fulton's steamboat, 7. War between England and the United States. General war in Europe. Waterloo. Napoleon at St. Helena. Johnson, Goldsmith, Burns.
20. **George IV.** — **Louis XVIII.** and **Charles X.**, France. **Pope Leo XII.** Missouri Compromise in the United States. War between Greece and Turkey.
30. **William IV.** — **Louis Philippe**, France. **Pope Gregory XVI.** Revolution in France. Goethe and Lafayette died. Slavery abolished in the British Colonies, 34.
37. **Victoria.** — **Louis Philippe**, **Louis Napoleon**, France. **Popes Gregory XVI.**, **Pius IX.**, 46; and **Leo XIII.**, 78. Guizot. **Nicholas**, 25; **Alexander II.**, Russia, 55. **William**, Germany, 71. Electric telegraph invented, 44. Thomas Arnold. War between Mexico and the United States, 46-48. French Republic, 48; the Empire, 52. Revolutions in Austria, Prussia, and Hungary, 48, &c. First Atlantic cable laid, 58; second cable successful, 66. War between France, Sardinia, and Austria, 59; between Prussia, Italy, and Austria, 66. Cavour. Emancipation of serfs in Russia, 61. Civil war in the United States, 61-65. Proclamation of Emancipation, 63. War between Germany and France, 70. France a Republic, 71. Bismarck. Telephone invented, 76. War between Russia and Turkey, 77. Humboldt, Agassiz, Thiers.

# GENEALOGY OF THE ENGLISH SOVEREIGNS.

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## *SAXON LINE.*

**Egbert**, son of Alchmund, Prince of Wessex.

**Ethelwolf**, son of Egbert.

**Ethelbald**,  
**Ethelbert**,  
**Ethelred I.**,  
**Alfred**,  
} sons of Ethelwolf.

**Edward the Elder**, son of Alfred.

**Athelstan**,  
**Edmund I.**,  
**Edred**,  
} sons of Edward the Elder.

**Edwy**,  
**Edgar**,  
} sons of Edmund I.

**Edward**,  
**Ethelred II.**,  
} sons of Edgar.

**Edmund II., Ironside**, son of Ethelred II.

**Canute** (Danish), son of Sweyn, who was declared King of England, but was never crowned.

**Harold I.** (Danish), son of Canute.

**Canute II.**, or **Hardicanute** (Danish), son of Canute.

**Edward the Confessor** (Saxon), son of Ethelred II. by his second wife, Emma of Normandy.

**Harold II.** (Saxon), son of Godwine, Earl of Wessex, a Saxon nobleman, but not of royal blood.

## *NORMAN FAMILY.*

**William I.**, the Conqueror, son of Robert, Duke of Normandy; born 1027; died 1087; married Matilda of Flanders, a descendant of Alfred the Great, 1054 (William's great-aunt, Emma of Normandy, was the mother of Edward the Confessor); had four sons and five daughters.

**William II.**, Rufus, third son of William I.; born 1060; killed 1100, not married.

**Henry I.**, youngest son of William I.; born 1068; died 1135; married Maud of Scotland 1100, and Adelais of Louvain 1121; had one son and one daughter.

**Stephen I.**, grandson of William I. by his daughter Adela; born about 1105; died 1154; married Matilda of Boulogne 1134; had three sons and two daughters.

### PLANTAGENET FAMILY.

**Henry II.**, son of Geoffrey Plantagenet, Duke of Anjou, and grandson of Henry I. by his daughter Matilda; born 1133; died 1189; married Eleanor of Guienne 1150; had five sons and three daughters.

**Richard I.**, son of Henry II.; born 1157; died 1199; married Berengaria of Navarre 1191; no legitimate children.

**John**, son of Henry II.; born 1165; died 1216; married Isabel of Gloucester 1189, and Isabel of Angoulême 1199; had two sons and three daughters.

**Henry III.**, eldest son of John; born 1207; died 1272; married Eleanor of Provence 1236; had two sons and two daughters, besides five children who died in infancy.

**Edward I.**, eldest son of Henry III.; born 1239; died 1307; married Eleanor of Castile 1254, and Margaret of France 1299; had six sons and ten daughters.

**Edward II.**, son of Edward I.; born 1284; murdered 1327; married Isabella of France 1308; had two sons and two daughters.

**Edward III.**, son of Edward II.; born 1312; died 1377; married Philippa of Hainault 1328; had seven sons and five daughters.

**Richard II.**, son of the Black Prince, and grandson of Edward III.; born 1366; died about 1400; married Anne of Bohemia 1382, and Isabella of France 1396; no children.

### BRANCH OF LANCASTER.

**Henry IV.**, son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, fourth son of Edward III.; born 1366; died 1413; married Mary de Bohun 1397, and Joan of Navarre 1403; had four sons and two daughters.

**Henry V.**, son of Henry IV.; born 1388; died 1422; married Catherine, daughter of Charles VI. of France, 1420; had one son.

**Henry VI.**, son of Henry V.; born 1421; died 1471; married Margaret of Anjou 1445; had one son.

*BRANCH OF YORK.*

**Edward IV.**, son of Richard, Duke of York; born 1442; died 1483; married Elizabeth Woodville Grey 1463; had three sons and seven daughters. Edward IV. was the grandson of Richard, Earl of Cambridge, who married Anne Mortimer, the great-grand-daughter of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, the third son of Edward III. Richard, Earl of Cambridge, was son of Edmund, Duke of York, fifth son of Edward III.

**Edward V.**, son of Edward IV.; born 1470; murdered about 1483; not married.

**Richard III.**, son of Richard, Duke of York, and brother of Edward IV.; born 1450; killed 1485; married Anne of Warwick 1472; had one son.

*TUDOR FAMILY.*

**Henry VII.**, son of Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond, and a descendant of Edward III. by his fourth son, John of Gaunt; born 1456; died 1509; married Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV., 1486; had three sons and four daughters.

**Henry VIII.**, son of Henry VII.; born 1491; died 1547; married Catherine of Aragon 1509, Anne Boleyn 1532, Jane Seymour 1536, Anne of Cleves 1540, Catherine Howard 1540, and Catherine Parr 1543; had one son and two daughters.

**Edward VI.**, son of Henry VIII.; born 1537; died 1558; not married.

**Mary**, daughter of Henry VIII. by Catherine of Aragon, and granddaughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain; born 1516; died 1558; married Prince Philip (afterwards Philip II.) of Spain; no children.

**Elizabeth**, daughter of Henry VIII. by Anne Boleyn; born 1533; died 1603; not married.

*HOUSE OF STUART.*

**James I.**, son of Mary, Queen of Scots, and Henry Stuart (Lord Darnley), her cousin. James I. was great-grandson of Henry VII. on the side of both father and mother; born 1566; died 1625; married Anne of Denmark 1590; two sons and one daughter, besides several children who died in infancy.

**Charles I.**, son of James I.; born 1600; beheaded 1649; married Henrietta Maria of France 1625; three sons and two daughters.

**Oliver Cromwell**, Protector; born 1599; died 1658; married Elizabeth Bouchier; had five sons and four daughters.



- Charles II.**, son of Charles I.; born 1630; died 1685; married Catherine of Braganza; no legitimate children.
- James II.**, son of Charles I.; born 1633; died 1701, married Anne Hyde 1660, Mary of Modena 1673; one son and two daughters.
- William III.** and **Mary II.** **William**, Prince of Orange, and grandson of Charles I.; born 1650; died 1702; married Mary 1677.
- Mary**, daughter of James II.; born 1662; died 1694; married as above. They had no children.
- Anne**, daughter of James II.; born 1665; died 1714; married George, Prince of Denmark, 1683; nineteen sons and daughters. All died young.

## HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK.

- George I.**, son of the Elector of Hanover, and great-grandson of James I.; born 1660; died 1727; married Sophia Dorothea of Zell; had one son and one daughter.
- George II.**, son of George I.; born 1683, died 1760, married Caroline of Anspach 1705; three sons and five daughters.
- George III.**, son of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and grandson of George II.; born 1738; died 1820; married Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz 1761; had nine sons and six daughters.
- George IV.**, son of George III.; born 1762; died 1830; married Caroline of Brunswick 1795; one daughter.
- William IV.**, son of George III.; born 1765; died 1837; married Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen; two daughters, who died young.
- Victoria**, daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, and grand-daughter of George III.; her mother was Maria Louisa Victoria of Saxe-Coburg; born 1819; married her cousin Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha 1840; four sons and five daughters. The Prince-Consort died in 1861.

The descent of Victoria from William the Conqueror will be readily understood from the following:—

Victoria is the daughter of  
 Edward (the Duke of Kent), the son of  
 George III., the son of  
 Frederick (Prince of Wales), the son of  
 George II., the son of  
 George I., the son of  
 Sophia (Electress of Hanover), the daughter of  
 Elizabeth (Queen of Bohemia), the daughter of  
 James I., the son of  
 Mary, Queen of Scots, the daughter of

James V. (of Scotland), the son of  
James IV. (of Scotland) and Margaret Tudor, the daughter of  
Henry VII. (and Elizabeth of York), the son of  
Margaret Beaufort, the daughter of  
John Beaufort (the Duke of Somerset), the son of  
John Beaufort (the Earl of Somerset), the son of  
John of Gaunt (the Duke of Lancaster), the fourth son of  
Edward III., the son of  
Edward II., the son of  
Edward I., the son of  
Henry III., the son of  
John, the son of  
Henry II., the son of  
Matilda, the daughter of  
Henry I., the fourth son of  
William the Conqueror.

The descent can also be traced from Henry VII. through the House of York.

### Through the York Branch.

Elizabeth of York (queen of Henry VII.) was the daughter of  
Edward IV., son of  
Richard (Duke of York), son of  
Anne Mortimer, daughter of  
Roger Mortimer, son of  
Edmund Mortimer and Philippa, daughter of  
Lionel (Duke of Clarence), third son of  
Edward III.

## THE PRESENT ROYAL FAMILY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

**Her Majesty Alexandrina Victoria**, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, Duchess of Lancaster, Defender of the Faith, &c.; born May 24, 1819; crowned June 28, 1838; and married, Feb. 10, 1840, Albert, Prince of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (who died December, 1861).

Her children:—

**1. Victoria Adelaide Maria Louisa**, Princess Royal; born Nov. 21, 1840; married, Jan. 15, 1858, Frederick William, Crown Prince of Prussia. Seven children.

**2. Albert Edward**, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; born Nov. 9, 1841; married, March 10, 1863, Princess Alexandra, daughter of the King of Denmark. Five children.

**3. Alice Maud Mary**; born April 25, 1843; married Frederick William, Prince of Hesse-Darmstadt, July 1, 1862; died Dec. 14, 1878. Six children.

**4. Alfred Ernest Albert**, Duke of Edinburgh; born Aug. 6, 1844; married, Jan. 23, 1874, the Grand Duchess Alexandrovna, daughter of the Czar of Russia. Two children.

**5. Helena Augusta Victoria**; born May 25, 1846; married, July 5, 1866, Frederick, Prince of Sleswick-Holstein, &c. Four children.

**6. Louisa Caroline Alberta**; born March 18, 1848; married, March 21, 1871, John Douglass Campbell, Marquis of Lorne, and now (1879) Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada.

**7. Arthur William Patrick Albert**, Duke of Connaught, &c.; born May 1, 1850; married, March 13, 1879, Princess Louisa Margaret of Prussia.

**8. Leopold George Duncan Albert**; born April 7, 1853.

**9. Beatrice Maria Victoria Feodore**; born April 14, 1857.

## TABLE OF THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND.—No. I.

From the Accession of Egbert, 827, to the Death of Richard III., 1485.

A.D.		KINGS.	Ys.	
<b>800</b>				<b>SAXON LINE.</b>
	27	Egbert . . . .	11	First sole monarch of England; end of the
	38	Ethelwolf . . . .	20	<i>Saxon Heptarchy.</i>
9th	57	Ethelbald . . . .	3	{ The Danes begin their hostile attacks, and continue for more than two centuries to scourge the country.
	60	Ethelbert . . . .	6	
	66	Ethelred I. . . .	5	
	72	Alfred . . . .	28	An illustrious king; has a prosperous reign.
<b>900</b>				
	00	Edward <i>the Elder</i> . . . .	25	The Danes defeated.
	25	Athelstan . . . .	16	Defeats the Danes, Welsh, Scots, &c.
	41	Edmund I. . . .	7	Murdered by the robber <i>Leolf</i> .
10th	48	Edred . . . .	7	Ascendency of <i>Dunstan</i> .
	55	Edwy . . . .	4	
	59	Edgar . . . .	16	<i>Dunstan</i> archbishop.
	75	Edward <i>the Martyr</i> . . . .	3	Assassinated by order of <i>Elfrida</i> .
	78	Ethelred II. . . .	37	Massacre of the Danes at the festival <i>St. Brice</i> .
<b>1000</b>				
	15	Sweyn, <i>Dane</i> . . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$	Conquers England, and is proclaimed king.
	16	Edmund II., <i>Ironsides</i> , . . . .	1	Defeated by the Danes, and murdered.
				<b>DANISH KINGS.</b>
	17	Canute, <i>the Great</i> . . . .	19	Completes the conquest of England.
	36	Harold I., <i>Harefoot</i> . . . .	4	
11th	39	Canute II. . . .	3	The power of the Danes terminates.
				<b>SAXON LINE RESTORED.</b>
	41	Edward, <i>Confessor</i> . . . .	24	First king that touched for the <i>king's-evil</i> .
	65	Harold II. . . .	1	Defeated and slain at <i>Hastings</i> .
				<b>NORMAN FAMILY.</b>
	66	William, <i>Conqueror</i> . . . .	21	Conquers England; introduces the <i>feudal system</i> and <i>Norman language</i> .
	87	William II. . . .	13	Is shot while hunting; <i>Archbishop Anselm</i> .
<b>1100</b>				
	00	Henry I. . . .	35	Usurps the throne of his brother <i>Robert</i> .
	35	Stephen ( <i>of Blois</i> ) . . . .	19	Usurps, and has contests with <i>Matilda</i> .
				<b>FAMILY OF PLANTAGENET.</b>
12th	54	Henry II. . . .	35	Conquers <i>Ireland</i> ; assassination of <i>Becket</i> .
	89	Richard I. . . .	10	Engages in a <i>Crusade</i> , and defeats <i>Saladin</i> .
	99	John, <i>Lackland</i> . . . .	17	Foreign dominions lost; <i>Magna Charta</i> .
<b>1200</b>				
	16	Henry III. . . .	56	Montfort; first <i>House of Commons</i> .
13th		Edward I. . . .	35	Subdues <i>Wales</i> ; <i>William Wallace</i> ; <i>Robert Bruce</i> .
	72			
<b>1300</b>				
	7	Edward II. . . .	20	Defeated by the Scots at <i>Bannockburn</i> .
	27	Edward III. . . .	50	A splendid reign; <i>chivalry</i> in its zenith; victories of <i>Cressy</i> , <i>Poitiers</i> ; the <i>Black Prince</i> .
14th				
	77	Richard II. . . .	22	Deposed and murdered; <i>Wickliffe</i> ; <i>Chaucer</i> .
				<b>BRANCH OF LANCASTER.</b>
	99	Henry IV. . . .	14	Gains the throne instead of the rightful heir.
<b>1400</b>				
	13	Henry V. . . .	9	Victory of <i>Agincourt</i> . <i>Oldcastle</i> burnt.
	22	Henry VI. . . .	39	Civil wars of the <i>White</i> and <i>Red Roses</i> .
				<b>BRANCH OF YORK.</b>
15th	61	Edward IV. . . .	22	Battles of <i>Towton</i> , <i>Barnet</i> , and <i>Tewksbury</i> .
	83	Edward V. . . .		Murdered after a reign of seventy-four days.
	83	Richard III. . . .	2	Defeated and slain at <i>Bosworth</i> .

## TABLE OF THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND.—No. 2.

From Henry VII., 1485, to the Death of George II., 1760.

A.D.		KINGS.	Ys.	
1500	85	Henry VII. . . .	24	HOUSE OF TUDOR. Marries <i>Elizabeth</i> , daughter of Edward IV., uniting the houses of <i>York</i> and <i>Lancaster</i> ; commerce encouraged; the <i>feudal system</i> declines.
	9	Henry VIII. . . .	38	A cruel tyrant; victory of <i>Flodden</i> by Surrey; introduces the <i>Reformation</i> ; two <i>queens</i> divorced, two beheaded; <i>Wolsey</i> disgraced; <i>Bishop Fisher</i> , <i>Sir Thomas More</i> , <i>Cromwell</i> , and <i>Surrey</i> beheaded.
	47	Edward VI. . . .	6	Promotes the <i>Reformation</i> , aided by <i>Craumer</i> .
16th	53	Mary . . . .	5	Restores <i>Catholic religion</i> ; marries <i>Philip II.</i> of Spain; <i>Jane Grey</i> beheaded; many Protestants burnt.
	58	Elizabeth . . . .	44	Has an auspicious reign, assisted by <i>Bacon</i> , <i>Burleigh</i> , <i>Walsingham</i> , &c.; agriculture, commerce, and literature flourish; the <i>Church of England</i> established; <i>Mary</i> , <i>Queen of Scots</i> , beheaded; the <i>Spanish Armada</i> destroyed.
1600				
17th	3	James I. . . .	22	HOUSE OF STUART. Unites the crowns of <i>England</i> and <i>Scotland</i> ; the Gunpowder Plot defeated; the <i>Bible</i> translated; the <i>Puritans</i> settle at <i>Plymouth</i> , Mass.
	25	Charles I. . . .	24	Despotic; attempts to raise money without consent of Parliament; <i>civil war</i> rages; <i>Strafford</i> and <i>Laud</i> beheaded; <i>Charles</i> defeated and beheaded (1649); the <i>Commonwealth</i> begins.
	53	<i>Cromwell</i> . . . .	5	Dissolves the Long Parliament, and becomes <i>Protector</i> ; Navigation Act; Dutch war.
	60	Charles II. . . .	25	Profligate; his reign injurious to <i>liberty</i> and <i>morality</i> ; <i>plague</i> and <i>fire</i> in London; <i>Clarendon</i> banished; <i>Russell</i> and <i>Algernon Sidney</i> executed.
	85	James II. . . .	4	Attempts to establish the <i>Catholic religion</i> , and is obliged to abdicate: hence the <i>Revolution</i> .
1700	89	William III. & Mary .	13	<i>Constitution</i> confirmed; battles of <i>Boyne</i> and <i>La Hogue</i> ; Peace of <i>Ryswick</i> ; <i>national debt</i> begins.
	2	Anne . . . .	12	<i>Marlborough</i> and <i>Eugene's</i> victories of <i>Blenheim</i> , <i>Ramillies</i> , <i>Malplaquet</i> , &c.; <i>literature</i> flourishes.
	14	George I. . . .	13	HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK. Rebellion in favor of the <i>Pretender</i> suppressed; South-Sea scheme; <i>Walpole</i> minister.
18th	27	George II. . . .	33	The <i>Pretender</i> overthrown at <i>Culloden</i> ; war with <i>France</i> carried on in Europe, Asia, and America; battle of <i>Dettingen</i> ; conquest of <i>Canada</i> .

## TABLE OF THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND.—No. 3.

From George III., 1760, to Victoria.

A.D.		KINGS.	Ys.	
1800  19th	60	George III. . . .	60	HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK, <i>concluded</i> . A long and eventful reign; hostilities with and loss of the <i>American Colonies</i> ; long war with <i>France</i> , terminated by the battle of <i>Waterloo</i> ; possessions in India greatly extended; commerce and the arts flourish, but the <i>national debt</i> greatly increased; <i>Regency</i> 1811.
	20	George IV. . . .	10	Proceedings against <i>Queen Caroline</i> ; battle of <i>Navarino</i> ; <i>Corporation</i> and <i>Test Acts</i> repealed; <i>Catholic emancipation</i> .
	30	William IV. . . .	7	The <i>Reform Bill</i> passes; Irish Church Reform; <i>colonial slavery</i> abolished; East-India charter modified.
	37	Victoria . . . .		Married to <i>Prince Albert</i> ; Chartism; Corn Laws; Scottish Free Church; the <i>World's Fair</i> ; Canadian rebellion; <i>Afghan</i> war; <i>Sepoy</i> rebellion; war with <i>China</i> ; <i>Egypt</i> ; in the <i>Crimea</i> ; penny postage; Jewish relief; <i>Education Bill</i> ; disestablishment of the Irish Church; Cyprus; <i>Afghan</i> war; <i>Zulu</i> war.

NOTE.—The figures on the left hand of the kings denote the commencement of their reigns.

## CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF ENGLISH CELEBRITIES.

A.D.	STATESMEN AND COM- MANDERS.	Died.	POETS.	Died.	DIVINES.	Died.	MISCEL- LANEOUS.	Died.
<b>1200</b>	Leicester . . .	65	Robt. of Gloucester,		Langton . . .	28	Roger Bacon . .	92
<b>1300</b>	Black Prince . .	76	CHAUCER . . .		Wickliffe . . .	84	Mandeville . . .	72
<b>1400</b> 15 <sup>th</sup>	Warwick . . .	71	Gower . . . . .	8	A Kempis . . .	71	Caxton . . . . .	92
<b>1500</b>	Wolsey . . . . .	30	Skelton . . . . .	29	Tyndale . . .	36	Thomas More, . .	35
	Somerset . . . . .	52	Wyatt . . . . .	41	Ridley . . . .	55	Thomas Elyot, . .	46
	Gardiner . . . . .	55	Earl of Surrey . .	47	Latimer . . .	55	Leland . . . . .	52
	S. Cabot . . . . .	57	Heywood . . . . .	65	CRANMER . . .	56	Cheke . . . . .	57
16 <sup>th</sup>	Leicester . . . . .	88	Gascoigne . . . .	77	Card. Pole . .	58	R. Ascham . . .	68
	Walsingham . . .	89	Marlowe . . . . .	93	Coverdale . .	69	Holingshed . . .	81
	Drake . . . . .	96	Peele . . . . .	97	KNOX . . . . .	72	Buchanan . . .	82
	Burleigh . . . . .	98	SPENSER . . . . .	98	Hooker . . . .		P. Sidney . . .	86
<b>1600</b>	Essex . . . . .	1	F. Beaumont . . .	15	Andrewes . . .	26	Napier . . . . .	17
	Raleigh . . . . .	18	SHAKSPEARE, . .	16	Usher . . . . .	56	BACON . . . . .	26
	Strafford . . . . .	41	J. Fletcher . . .	25	Walton . . . .	61	Camden . . . . .	28
	Pym . . . . .	43	Herbert . . . . .	35	Th. Fuller . .	61	Coke . . . . .	34
	Hampden . . . . .	43	Ben Jonson . . .	37	Taylor . . . .	67	Burton . . . . .	39
	Blake . . . . .	57	Massinger . . . .	39	Barrow . . . .	77	Selden . . . . .	54
17 <sup>th</sup>	Cromwell . . . . .	58	Cowley . . . . .	67	Leighton . . .	84	Harvey . . . . .	57
	Monk . . . . .	70	MILTON . . . . .	74	H. More . . .	87	Hale . . . . .	76
	Shaftesbury . . .	83	Roscommon . . .	84	Bunyan . . . .	88	Harrington . . .	77
	Russell . . . . .	83	Otway . . . . .	85	Cudworth . . .	88	Hobbes . . . . .	79
	Alg. Sidney . . .	83	Waller . . . . .	87	Baxter . . . .	91	Sydenham . . .	89
	Temple . . . . .	99	Butler . . . . .	88	Tillotson . . .	94	Boyle . . . . .	91
<b>1700</b>	Cavendish . . . .	7	DRYDEN . . . . .	1	Howe . . . . .	5	LOCKE . . . . .	4
	Godolphin . . . .	12	Parnell . . . . .	17	M. Henry . . .	14	ADDISON . . . .	19
	Somers . . . . .	16	Rowe . . . . .	18	Burnet . . . .	15	Sir C. Wren . . .	23
	Marlborough . . .	22	Prior . . . . .	21	South . . . . .	16	NEWTON . . . . .	27
	Walpole . . . . .	46	Congreve . . . .	28	Clarke . . . .	29	De Foe . . . . .	31
	Bolingbroke . . .	51	Gay . . . . .	32	Watts . . . . .	48	Swift . . . . .	45
	Vernon . . . . .	57	POPE . . . . .	44	Doddridge . .	51	Fielding . . . . .	54
	Wolfe . . . . .	59	Thomson . . . .	48	Butler . . . .	52	Richardson . . .	61
	Boscawen . . . .	61	Collins . . . . .	56	Berkeley . . .	53	Sterne . . . . .	68
18 <sup>th</sup>	Lytelton . . . . .	63	Shenstone . . . .	63	Lardner . . . .	68	Hume . . . . .	76
	Chatham . . . . .	78	Churchill . . . .	64	Whitefield . .	70	Garrick . . . . .	79
	Cook . . . . .	79	Young . . . . .	65	Warburton . .	79	Blackstone . . .	80
	Rodney . . . . .	92	Akenside . . . . .	70	Lowth . . . .	87	JOHNSON . . . .	84
	North . . . . .	92	Gray . . . . .	71	Wesley . . . .	91	Ad. Smith . . .	90
	Mansfield . . . .	93	Goldsmith . . . .	74	Price . . . . .	91	Robertson . . .	93
	Burke . . . . .	97	Burns . . . . .	96	Campbell . . .	96	Gibbon . . . . .	94
	Amherst . . . . .	98	COWPER . . . . .		Blair . . . . .		Wm. Jones . . .	94
<b>1800</b>	Nelson . . . . .	5	Beattie . . . . .	3	Priestley . . .	4	Sheridan . . . .	6
	Pitt . . . . .	6	H. K. White . . .	6	Paley . . . . .	5	Playfair . . . .	19
	Fox . . . . .	6	Shelley . . . . .	22	Horsley . . . .	5	Herschel . . . .	22
	Grattan . . . . .	20	BYRON . . . . .	24	Porteus . . . .	8	Mitford . . . . .	27
	Erskine . . . . .	23	Crabbe . . . . .	32	Watson . . . .	16	Stewart . . . . .	28
	Canning . . . . .	27	W. SCOTT . . . .	32	Th. Scott . . .	21	Davy . . . . .	29
19 <sup>th</sup>	Eldon . . . . .	38	Coleridge . . . .	34	R. Hall . . . .	31	Mackintosh . . .	32
	Grey . . . . .	45	Southey . . . . .	43	A. Clarke . . .	32	Wilberforce . .	33
	C. Napier . . . . .	52	Campbell . . . .	44	Arnold . . . .	42	Doug. Jerrold . .	57
	Wellington . . . .	52	Wordsworth . . .	50	J. Foster . . .	44	Macaulay . . . .	59
	Cobden . . . . .	65	Montgomery . . .	55	Robertson . .	53	Hallam . . . . .	59
	Palmerston . . . .	65	Leigh Hunt . . .	59	Whately . . .	63	Thackeray . . .	64
	Russell . . . . .	78	Mrs. Browning . .	62	Alford . . . .	71	De Quincey . . .	59
	Derby . . . . .		W. S. Landor . .	64	Stanley . . . .		Dickens . . . . .	70
	Gladstone . . . .		Tennyson . . . .		Spurgeon . . .		Carlyle . . . . .	
	Beaconsfield . . .		M. Arnold . . . .		Manning . . . .		H. Spencer . . .	

## REMARKS ON THE TABLES OF ENGLISH HISTORY AND DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

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Some of the most eminent sovereigns who have occupied the throne of England are the following, — Alfred, William the Conqueror, Henry II., Edward I., Edward III., Henry VII., Elizabeth, and William III.

The cause of English freedom has been most effectually promoted during some of the weakest and least prosperous reigns, as those of John, Henry III., Charles I., and James II.

Some of the most important political changes or revolutions that have taken place in England since the Norman Conquest are the granting of the *Magna Charta*, or the Great Charter, in the time of King John; the establishment of the House of Commons, in the time of Henry III.; the Reformation in religion, in the reign of Henry VIII.; the union of the crowns of England and Scotland, at the commencement of the reign of James I.; the civil war between Charles I. and the English Parliament, which issued in the defeat and execution of the king, and the establishment of the Commonwealth under Cromwell; the restoration of the monarchy, under Charles II.; the dethronement or abdication of James II.; the accession of William and Mary, and the establishment of the principles of the Constitution (1688); the legislative union between England and Scotland, in the reign of Queen Anne; the union of Ireland with Great Britain, in the reign of George III. (1800); and the Reform of Parliament, in the reign of William IV. (1832.)

*Chaucer*, the most celebrated of the early English poets, flourished in the latter part of the fourteenth century, in the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II.; but English classical literature may be considered as beginning in the latter half of the sixteenth century, during the reign of Elizabeth, with *Hooker*, a learned divine, *Spenser* and *Shakspeare*, eminent poets, and *Bacon*, the philosopher, who also lived through the reign of James I. The reign of Queen Anne was particularly distinguished for men of genius, among whom were *Newton*, *Addison*, *Pope*, and *Swift*.

*Wolsey* and *Gardiner*, who are placed in the left-hand column, were both ecclesiastics and bishops, though more distinguished as statesmen than as divines. Of those who are placed in the right-hand column, *Sir Thomas More*, the author of "*Utopia*," &c., and *Lord Bacon*, the philosopher, were both chancellors of England; *Sir Matthew Hale* was an eminent judge; *Sir Edward Coke*, a great lawyer, *Sir Philip Sidney*, the author of "*Arcadia*," &c., *Harrington*, the author of "*Oceana*," &c., *John Selden*, and *Sir William Jones*, all eminent scholars, were also distinguished in political life.

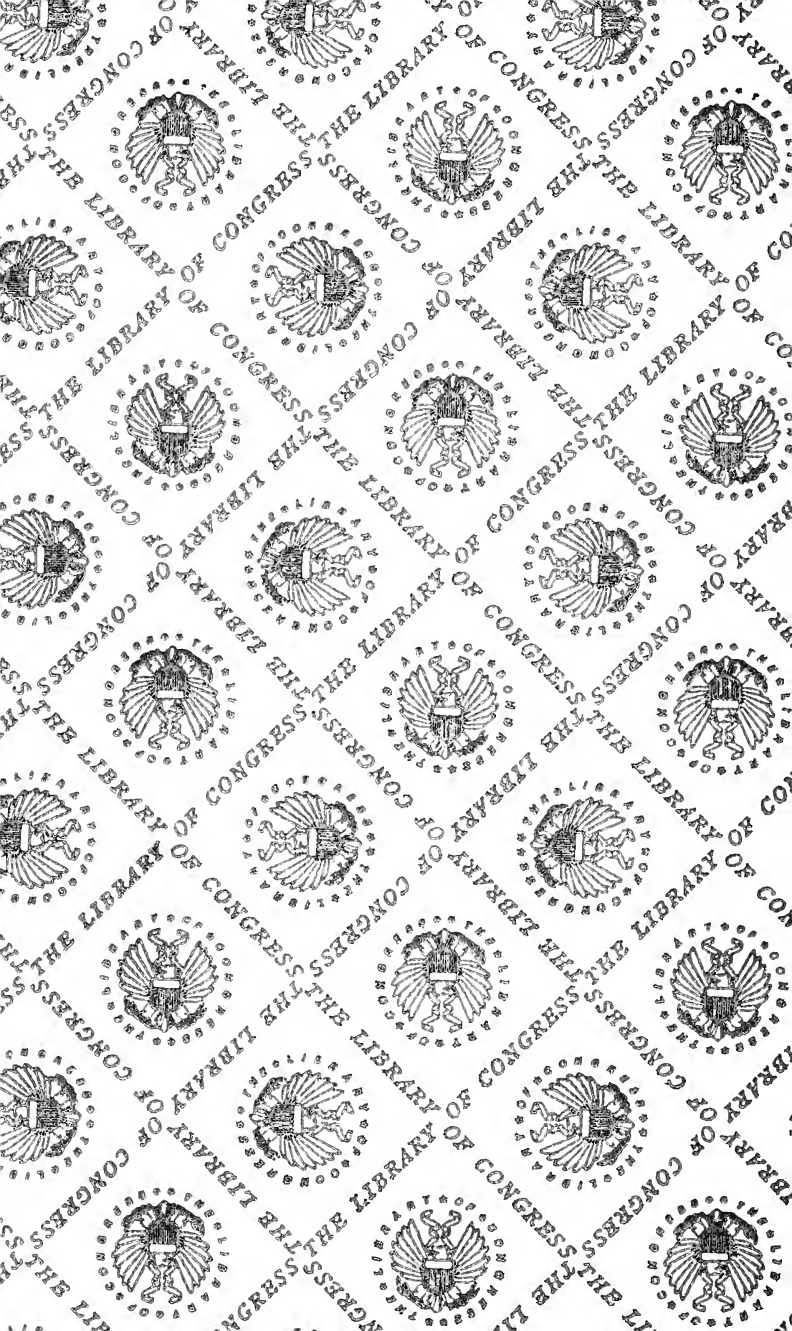
Some who are classed in the Table among statesmen and commanders are also distinguished as authors, as *Raleigh*, *Bolingbroke*, *Lyttleton*, *Temple*, *Algernon Sidney*, *Burke*, &c.; some classed among the divines and miscellaneous authors are also noted as poets, as *Addison*, *Watts*, *Swift*, &c.; and some of the poets are also eminent as prose-writers.

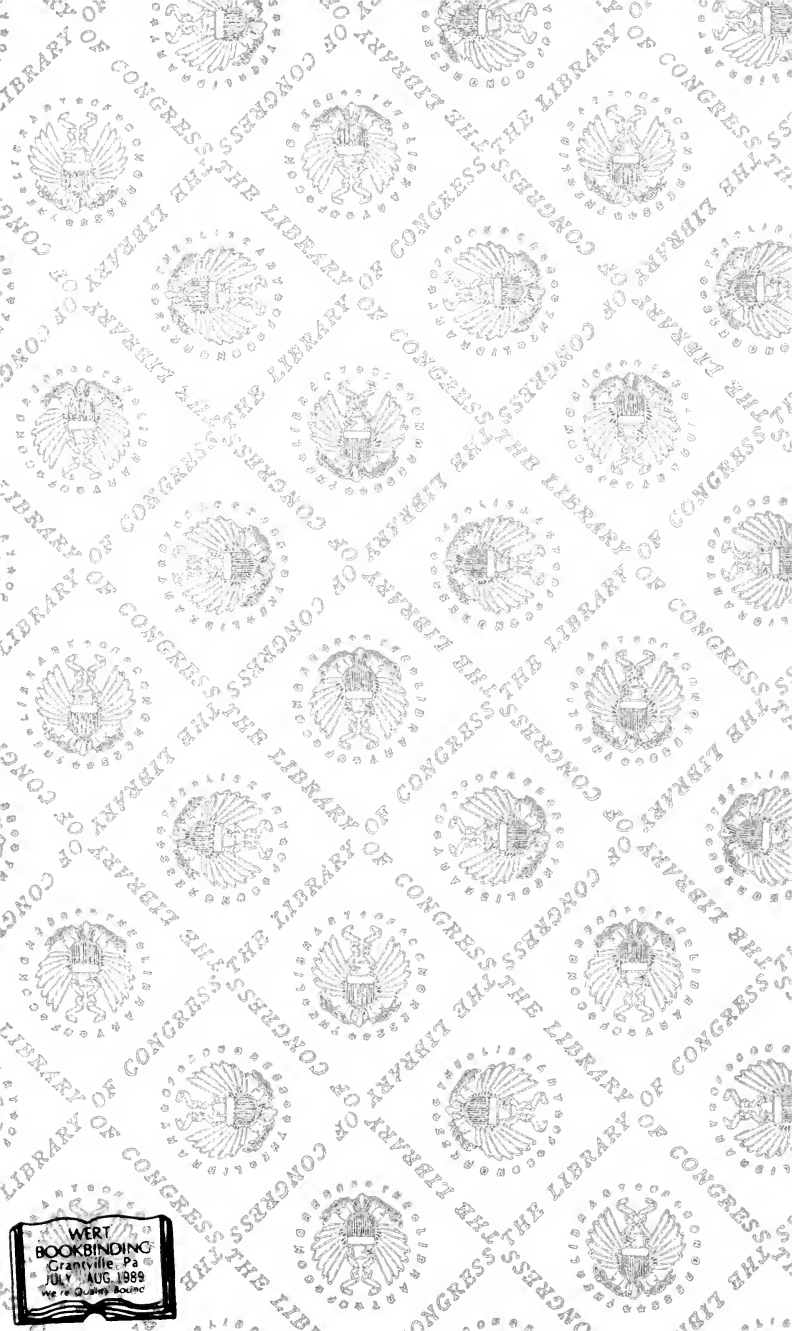
*Shakspeare*, the great English dramatist, is eminently distinguished for genius; *Milton* is regarded as the greatest epic poet of modern times; *Lord Bacon* pointed out the true mode of philosophizing; the works of *Newton* formed an era in natural philosophy and astronomy, as did those of *Locke* in the philosophy of the human mind.

There are many names of much merit in English literature in addition to those contained in the Table.









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